Daily Report

Latin America

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Foreign Ministers Report on San Jose Meeting

PA3103014289 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
0123 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] San Jose, 30 Mar (DPA)—The five Central American foreign ministers who are meeting in San Jose have said that the schedule for the regional peace process is being followed. Foreign Ministers Carlos Lopez Contreras, Mario Palencia, Ricardo Acevedo, Miguel D'Escoto, and Rodrigo Madrigal from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, respectively, held a closed-door, 5-hour meeting to discuss an agenda that covers the following points:

1. A study of the agreement signed at the Costa del Sol, El Salvador, presidential summit on 13 and 14 February 1989;

2. A discussion of the Nicaraguan democratization process and the plan to demobilize the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups;

3. A discussion of the possibility of creating a political verification mechanism to ensure fulfillment of the commitments made in the Esquipulas II agreements;

4. A study of the possibility of establishing a UN group of observers in Central America;

5. A discussion of the U.S. bipartisan agreement on humanitarian aid to the contras, which is contingent on democratization in Nicaragua.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said: "We are studying each country's commitments one by one, and the general result of the analysis is satisfactory." Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto presented a report on "how Nicaragua is fulfilling to the letter all the agreements signed both in Guatemala in August 1987, and in Costa del Sol on 13 and 14 February 1989."

D'Escoto explained that "the government has set a date for the elections in Nicaragua, and the elections will be completely free. All political parties are allowed to participate in the elections, and there are 14 [opposition] parties in Nicaragua. Approximately 2,000 political prisoners have been released. There is also freedom of expression, and we are working on the process of national reconciliation."

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo presented a lengthy report on his country's elections that culminated in the triumph of Alfredo Cristiani of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA). Acevedo praised the civic spirit of the Salvadoran people who, despite threats by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), went to the polls and showed the democratic spirit of the Salvadoran people." [quotation marks as received]

Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras said that "Honduras is fully willing to cooperate with the demobilization of the contras," but he insisted that "this is essentially a border problem." Guatemalan Foreign Minister Mario Palencia provided details on his country's national reconciliation process and on preparations for the 1990 general elections.

The Costa Rican foreign minister regretted that the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly has not yet approved the Central American Parliament project, explaining that "this project will in fact be under discussion at the Legislative Assembly within the next few days."

UN delegate Alvaro de Soto told newsmen that "the foreign ministers will approve a UN proposal tomorrow to send a peacekeeping military force, the blue helmets, to Central America to help achieve peace in the region."

The foreign ministers will meet again tomorrow and will hold a news conference to provide details on the agreements. "In general terms, there is a good atmosphere at this meeting; we are working on the agenda with great enthusiasm and with a great sense of responsibility," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal asserted.

Caribbean Development Bank Meeting 10-11 May

FL2403185189 Bridgetown CANA in English
1842 GMT 24 Mar 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 24, CANA—The 19th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) will be held at the Hilton International in Trinidad on May 10-11, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson.

The member countries of CDB are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the British Virgin Islands, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Colombia, Dominica, France, Grenada, Guyana, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The bank said: "For the purpose of covering the meeting, members of the foreign press will not be required to obtain work permits. However, well in advance of their arrival date they should supply the immigration authorities of Trinidad and Tobago with the following: name, date of birth, nationality, country of birth and date of arrival."

Cuba

Castro Gives State Security Anniversary Speech

FL3003154889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro in Havana's Karl Marx Theater marking the 30th Anniversary of the State Security Organs; date not given—recorded; An identical recorded version of this speech was carried on Havana Cubavision Television at 0220 GMT on 29 March, providing fills and clarifications]

[Text] Distinguished guests and comrades, this time I will not be able to talk very much because, as you can see, I'm a bit hoarse. This must be from that cold that is going around. I don't know if it's a virus or what. It must have gotten away from state security; it infiltrated through the coast or something. [laughter] I hope this is not a repetition of the occasion in which we nationalized the Yankee enterprises. During the speech, I think it was at the stadium, I lost my voice. I don't know if I have a replacement; there's Raul and there may be another comrade [interrupted by applause] who may be able to finish the speech. Anyway, I didn't want to fail in my duty and I wanted to be here at the main ceremony of the 30th anniversary of the state security organs.

We have heard and read a lot these past few days about state security and its role in defending the Revolution. However, I think, I think [repeats himself] that everything that can be said would not be enough. It is a very important thing, a very important idea that when homage is rendered to state security, homage is not rendered to a state institution or various state institutions or organs of the Ministry of Interior. When homage is rendered to state security, homage is being rendered to all the people.

The fruits of their labors would not have been conceivable without the Revolution. However, without the Revolution, state security would not have been necessary because there wouldn't have been anything to defend. Those results are possible because the cause we defend is everyone's cause, and without doubt it is the most noble of causes. We could say that these years have passed by rather quickly, but along the way we have gained many lessons, many experiences, and many pages written with heroism, valor, and intelligence. Gathered here are two generations of combatants. Perhaps the most admirable thing is that, even though 30 years have gone by, we have many security cadres that are still young. Despite the efforts made throughout these years, despite the time that has passed by, what gives us inspiration is the youth of those men and women when they joined state security. These teachings will be and are of great service to the second generation of cadres and combatants of security.

This afternoon, while visiting the State Security Museum, we had the opportunity to relive many of those experiences and many of those pages. It was done in a matter of minutes [as heard] while we went through every one of the museum's wings. Starting with some of the first counterrevolutionary activities which began even before the triumph, and involved U.S. Government representatives who sought, before 1 January, to prevent a revolutionary triumph in our country. It is true that they underestimated our forces. It's true that they underestimated our process, and they underestimated our people. Perhaps they thought that it was a revolution like many others that can be put in quotation marks. Perhaps they thought that this country, so dependent, so very dependent on the United States could never begin its own course of independence. Perhaps they thought this country could never carry out a profound revolution. Perhaps they never even dreamed that the audacity of that revolutionary process could be possible or go as far as building a new society, a socialist society in our country. Perhaps they thought that the revolutionaries could be domesticated as the politicians were.

I remember in those times when the Yankee ambassador's arrival was announced. Back then the press was still in private hands, in the hands of the bourgeoisie, in the hands of the capitalists. They were terror stricken because they didn't feel safe with what could happen in the country. Immediate measures were taken and war criminals were judged, stolen goods were taken back, measures and decrees were established in favor of the workers, the peasants, and the people without even having started the agrarian reform and other measures. Shortly after 1 January, news arrived that the ambassador was finally coming and it was extensively covered by the press. From one page of the newspapers to the other, there was only news of the ambassador's arrival. That became the most important event after the Revolution's triumph. The press coordinated itself to exalt the ambassador. The ambassador was coming as proconsul, the one who has the last word. Undoubtedly, the ambassador arrived in Cuba with those thoughts.

He began to see strange things. First he saw strange faces because all the faces that arrived in Havana were new. They were the faces of men and women who, until then, were unknown. They had different styles, rebel spirits, independent spirits that would not go near the embassy under any circumstance to ask what should be done.

Open hostility against the Revolution began very quickly. One of their first pretenses were the revolutionary trials. Innocent people weren't on trial. Criminals, torturers, murderers were on trial. There were people who had committed, jointly, thousands and thousands of bloody crimes against our people. That was truly the first time in Cuba's history in which justice was served. We could almost say it was truly the first time justice was served in the history of Latin America. The conspiracy began. The defamation campaign against the revolution began. We could say they were preparing their artillery for what was to come. That is how the first confrontations started. These confrontations became more and

more pronounced a. the Revolution became more fixed and as the first revolutionary laws were created. They were in a difficult situation.

Until then, their problems were solved via coup d'etats. This is the classical manner to crush a revolutionary process. The last attempt, or rather, the last act of this type had taken place in Guatemala just a few short years before; I believe it was in 1954. At that time, a revolutionary government, of course not as radical as the Cuban revolutionaries, had established some laws in favor of the people and had also done some agrarian reforms. The United States immediately organized conspiracies. It was carried out with a large campaign. It was said, or they said, that a ship with Czechoslovakian weapons was heading for Guatemala. Well, that was a terrible crime; it was a dramatic accusation for those times. To receive a ship coming from a socialist country was something the United States couldn't accept under any circumstance. They made a lot of noise about that until they were able to weaken the Army and initiate a counterrevolution. The the most common tactic imperialism resorts to is the armed forces in Latin America.

Later on we saw another example of this after the Popular Unity's victory in Chile. The United States kept close ties with the Army. They continued to supply technical assistance, arms, and when it was necessary, to terminate the socialist experience, or experiment which was carried out in a peaceful manner in Chile, they used the Army as an instrument to crush the popular government. Of course, in Cuba this was the most common practice. Later in Latin America we saw cases in which armed institutions adopted revolutionary positions, progressive positions, independent positions. In a given moment we saw this in Peru. We also saw this in Panama. In Cuba they authorized the Liberation Army. They also created an army with the organization, structure and uniform of the United States. One of the missions of military intervention in Cuba was to eliminate the Liberation Army. They wanted to impose the Platt Amendment on us and create a new army in the image of and similar to the Armed Forces of the United States. This is in addition to the Naval Base in Guantanamo and other impositions.

Any problem in Cuba they could solve more easily than any problem in Guatemala with an old army, but they weren't counting on that old army. That old army had been completely dissolved. A new army had arisen, a revolutionary army, a popular army. At the same time, a new concept of defense is seen. Even though they new that a new army had been created and that they couldn't count on that instrument to stop the popular process, they were highly irritated—bourgeois, capitalists, land owners, and Yankees. When we spoke of workers' and peasants' militias, the Yankees were irritated because if the idea of a new army scared them, the idea of the people being armed scared them even more. The idea that workers and peasants be armed had such a definite character that to them it seemed like something very unusual and horrible. The protests were many when the militias were organized, when the people were armed. Arming the people was not just a revolutionary concept but also a military one. Faced with an enemy as powerful as the United States, our country could stand up to it only if all our people were armed.

These concepts that we are carrying out—the people's war, the war of all the people—began developing then and they gathered much strength. The Playa Giron battle and the fight against the bandits was a task fundamentally carried out by armed workers and peasants. It is true that this idea experienced some modifications during a certain time in our revolutionary development. When the military service was created, the process of creating reserves began. Little by little, the reserves began replacing the militia until our own life, our experiences, our realities made us once again adopt those initial ideas and develop them very extensively until they became what we have today, which is truly an exceptionally developed concept of what the defense of our country should be. This is a very important act because it explains the great battle that state security has had to undertake.

I bet that the imperialists did not have an army at its command to confront the people. It became necessary to use all the means they had available and did not have available, that were invented and not invented, to crush the Revolution by using means other than a coup. When one tours the museum, one becomes aware of how many things they invented, what we lived through during those years. Even those of us that were very close to each and every one of those events never ceased to be amazed at all these measures and all the means they used to destroy the revolution. They were also confronting a new experience.

We were confronting the experience of fighting that enormous empire, that enormous, powerful, rich empire, that experienced empire. An empire is not maintained simply with weapons and wealth, but also by its experiences. One could say that they used all their weapons beginning with the first tasks, which were political. They organized all sorts of counterrevolutionary groups. They used their entire inventory, all their plans in all areas from the start.

One of their first ideas was to eliminate the leaders. Fortunately they were not able to do so; sometimes they got close. I was telling Comrade Pascualito [not further identified] who was talking to me in the museum while a bazooka, a few automatic weapons, and some very interesting documents were being displayed.... [changes thought] He was explaining to me that you could see in the photo the building that is close to the palace. It is close, very close. It had a type of balcony, what do you call it? [two unidentified men simultaneously respond: It is called a northern terrace]. It is called the famous

northern terrace. It is just a few meters from the palace, a few dozen meters. I don't think it's even 100 meters away; I'll check, just out of curiosity, when I pass through there.

That's where the apartment was. That's where the weapons, everything were. Pascualito was telling me that the day before it was captured, they were there pointing the bazooka. They were pointing the bazooka. Someone said, look the bazooka will backfire. It's true. At that moment they realized that there could be some risks. It seems that the easiest method was to open the windows to shoot. They were pointing their weapons while the ceremony was being held in the terrace. Ceremonies were frequent and everyone was attending the meeting. There they were pointing their bazooka. They did not shoot.

That's why I told Pascualito that it was a security failure. How can you capture the enemy by shooting them, by pointing your weapons at them? It is clear, it is clear [repeats himself] that they did not know. They were following many trails for many things and for many plans. It was almost coincidental but they took the opportunity to point their weapons there. Fortunately, the U.S. bazooka is very big. I think it's not very practical to shoot it from a window. I think that it would have been more dangerous if it had backfired.

This was one of the many plans that they organized. State security was dismantling those plans from the start. Several cases appeared during the investigations conducted by the U.S. Senate but only a small portion of the attacks planned by the CIA appeared. They took it upon themselves to prove it and even publish it.

I asked the state security organs how many attacks they planned. They only have a portion of them listed, nothing more. Only a few very outstanding cases were on display in the museum. They would not allow the plan to be organized. They always tried to immediately stop it as soon as the first indications of a plan emerged. They would not let it grow. They said there were hundreds of plans, hundreds of plans for attacks.

The United States could have written a book with what they investigated. Someone could write a truly interesting book on this ambitious program of attacks that the imperialists conducted in our country. I don't think they planned it only in Cuba. They developed it and tried to apply it wherever possible, abroad. The most notable was the program they organized for [que organizaron a raiz] our trip to Chile, when we visited that country. However, I think that a student, a historic researcher could write a book on this topic and he would truly have a lot of material.

We could say that the organization of attack plans was a small part. I won't say that its not an important part, but it was a small part of the program of activities against our country. The acts of sabotage began at that time. The fires in stores and factories, the plans to dynamite mines, to destroy our oil industry, to destroy the refinery and other installations, began then. Air attacks also began then against sugarcane plantations, against industries. That is when the pirate air attacks began against coastal installations. At that time, several months after the triumph of the revolution, counterrevolutionary bands also began being organized. It began in the Escambray and then proceeded throughout the rest of the provinces in the country. There was a massive infiltration of weapons and dynamite to be used in all these plans. There were attacks, acts of sabotage, armed bands. All sorts of organizations were created, hundreds of organizations. They created close to 300 counterrevolutionary organizations. They gave more attention to some. They directly supplied some while others were promoted any way possible. There were hundreds of organizations. During that time, infamous campaigns were led.

There at the museum they have a photograph of the printing press where they printed a false decree. It pretended that someone had stolen from a minister's office a decree oppressing the people's right to protest. This may seem silly, but that type of propaganda had a very negative effect on people because it clashed with the people's instincts, the masses instincts. It was against all logic! Many minds had been conditioned. They were telling mothers that the state was going to take away their children. They said that the children were going to be sent to Russia; that's what they said. They frightened—it's incredible but—they frightened many people. Many middle-class families who had no reason to be against the Revolution were frightened.

They saw revolutionary laws and more revolutionary laws, which had never been seen before, and in them they distribute an alleged law that the government was going to issue. They planted panic in many people. That is the reason why thousands and thousands of children were taken out of the country. In those days the Yankees had an open door for anyone who wanted to enter, and so many left that way. Many people sent their children alone, because they couldn't leave immediately. That caused great psychological damage. It divided many families and caused many problems. Well, that was caused by that type of propaganda—rumors that were spread with a certain degree of efficiency. They also had the political job of organizing the counterrevolution.

It was in those times that attacks were made against our merchant ships and/or embassies abroad. It was a type of open season on us! It was against Cuban revolutionaries, diplomats, and representatives. They made efforts to promote deceptions against any official abroad. This was also the phase, during the first years, in which they initiated the armed counterrevolution. If the Escambray was the most representative place, that's where it all started; they managed to have armed bands in every province in the country. They even had them in Havana Province! They had them in Pinar del Rio, Havana,

Matanzas, everywhere. Sometimes we would travel along the main road at night and we would see the fires burning in the sugarcane fields.

It would burn to the right and the left of the road, all along the road for kilometers. In those days sugarcane was not burned for harvest; there was not much mechanization. We didn't use the technique of burning the fields like it was later used, especially when work forces were low and the yield had to be increased. It is a practice that we are trying to avoid, as much as possible. We are trying to resolve the problems with machinery and the storage centers. However, in those days the roads would be lit up by the fires in the sugarcane fields. That also happened, although to a lesser degree, in Havana Province. That forced a great mobilization of energy and man power, of resources. We had to intercept their communications, penetrate the organizations, discover the weapons deliveries. We had to find the arms caches. We had to keep watch over the skies with the little resources we had back then. We didn't have radar or other means to stop them from violating our airspace with transport planes and unloading weapons with parachutes.

About that time, the aggressive threats against our country were increased. They organized, trained, and unloaded the mercenary groups that attacked us at Giron. In that time, the danger of aggression toward Cuba was very evident. This gave rise to the conditions which later led to the October crisis. The struggle against the bands lasted for years. It lasted until 1966, and this was from 1960. The aggression began very soon and lasted for 6 years. Hundreds of combatants of our Armed Forces and our militias were killed in the struggle against the bands. However, the fight against the bands was a truly fabulous story that, according to my way of thinking, should be written. Parts of this fight have been written about, some books and stories, but that story so rich in events and so rich in heroism on behalf of our people, we could say, is yet to be written.

Imperialism didn't limit itself to those actions during the first days of the Revolution. It continued the aggressions in various manners along these past 30 years. They have implemented the policies of economic blockades, and economic espionage to know who had trade with Cuba and what they bought. They did this with the intent of sabotaging our economy. These measures have been going on for 30 years and are still going on. The assassination attempt plans lasted for many years and nobody could say for certain now that such plans don't exist anymore. They have had military espionage as a measure against the safety of the country. This was also initiated early on and is still going on. The diversion tactics and the infamous propaganda against the Revolution is still going on. These things have lasted for 30 years and they have lasted up until today. All of their efforts to promote treason and desertion, their promises of every kind have lasted up to now, and exist today.

Their criminal economic blockade still exists. Of course, what can we say about the campaigns against the Revolution? I would say that, today more than ever, imperialism concentrates its propaganda against Cuba in a special manner. Its powerful propaganda machine is used in a special and hateful way against Cuba. In the same way, Cuba is firm; in the same way, Cuba resists and cannot be domesticated. The danger of aggression, which has remained latent all these years, exists today and will continue to exist in such a way that they have forced us to make this tremendous effort in the defense of the nation. It is an effort into which we invest tremendous resources and immeasurable energies. We invest economic, technical material, and human resources to attain this level of defensive capability that we fortunately have today and must continue to maintain.

I haven't mentioned some of the atrocities that were committed. The biological war against our country is one of them. There was a war against our agriculture and our people. This is not something we have invented or made up because they themselves have acknowledged it at various times. Counterrevolutionary elements associated with the CIA have said that they are the ones who have launched, they introduced, porcine fever into our country. In some of the Senate investigations, they even praise elements of this proven bacteriological war. They didn't do this once; they introduced this plague into our country twice! They made the effort and introduced plagues into the sugarcane, tobacco, and even into the population.

We have absolutely no doubt as to how these events happened and when they happened. All the circumstances were investigated. The hemorrhagic dengue fever was introduced in our country by imperialism. We always have to be on guard. [coughs] We always have to be taking special measures to avoid [coughs] having diseases and plagues introduced into our country. We have to denounce this. Sometimes we see propaganda that could insinuate.... [changes thought] It has no other objective than to create determined conditions that permit, later, the placing of plagues into the sugarcane. We have seen this. We have studied it! Recently they had a campaign saying that we had an epidemic in our sugarcane. They said there was a virus in the sugarcane. Offhand, I don't recall what it's called. I think it was (?aldephegio) or something like that. They said this on counterrevolutionary radio stations and newspapers. They made some of the people in the world believe this. Some international organizations contacted us asking for news. They wanted to know if it was true. We have very good agricultural research centers, very good specialists, and very good technology and equipment to discover any disease. We saw that there wasn't the slightest symptom in our country of that disease.

We ask ourselves: Why do they resort to that propaganda? Why do they want to establish that belief? We have denounced this and warned against it. We have said what the purpose of the enemy could be. We have also said how we must multiply our vigilance. Our country cannot be at ease for a single moment because they threaten us with every type of sabotage. If it is not

sabotage as they used in the beginning, then it's sabotaging our commercial enterprises. They will sabotage anything we buy abroad, to any industry that we have. Sometimes we have built industries with equipment of capitalist origin and we notice that they have some problems, strange problems. Some of the problems are obviously intentional. Modern industry has some very complex equipment. Perhaps it is in a programmed, automatic return, or equipment for complex chemical processing. Many times we see strange things in the equipment bought by the country. We must always be alert for the sabotage that can be introduced through various ways—in industry, agriculture, etc.

This hostility has not ended for a single moment. Early on, we saw what they were capable of doing. When, to avoid giving the empire any pretext, we bought our first weapons, not in socialist countries but in a capitalist country—Belgium. The second...[corrects himself] the third ship that arrived here exploded as it was being unloaded. Evidently, it was sabotaged. When some of the cargo was lifted, the ship exploded. What made is worse is that when some people went to rescue some of the survivors and retrieve the bodies, there was a second explosion on board the ship. That sabotage alone cost over 100 lives! This has never happened again, and how many ships have arrived in our country loaded with armament? How many ships that came from the USSR and other socialist countries, and this has never again happened.

The imperialist enemy resorted to any and all weapons, not counting the ideological ones. We cannot have a lack of caution. [laughs] We should not have a lack of caution. We can't forget for a single moment that one of the empire's fundamental weapons is ideology. Now they are using it in an exhaustive manner.

I have described, at great length, the varied and infinite activities used against the Revolution. These are activities meant to stop it, stagnate it, and destroy it. They want to put obstacles in our path to stop development and progress, to stop the country from becoming an example to other countries.

This can give you an idea of security's enormous job against every one of these activities. When it is said that security has been working for 30 years defending the interests of the Revolution and the people, it is defending the most sacred interests of the Revolution and the people. Among these interests is the people's right to life, health, work, and well-being that can come from material riches. It's not just a simple phrase that is said when we honor the work of the comrades of state security.

Their success has truly been impressive. Even though the enemy came close to shooting us, it never did—with the exception of Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. He was the only privileged one. [laughter] He is the only one they managed to shoot at on a trip from Matanzas to Havana. He went to Matanzas and took part in a ceremony. On his way back, somewhere around Jibacoa, they took a few shots at him. This is only to give you an example. It really isn't known how much sabotage has been stopped or how much damage to the country these security organs have stopped. Now, well, could they alone do this job? What would our security be like without the people? What would it be like without the incessant, constant, firm, and loyal cooperation of the people? I think that the people have played the fundamental role in the extraordinary success in the completion of the missions by security. I believe this because we are all helpers of security. We are thousands, tens of thousands, millions of people, and this is the reason for our Revolution's triumph in the face of all of these plans that we have mentioned—the victory of the Revolution against these imperial machinations. I think that if we look for an explanation, if we look for a decisive element in our successes, it is this one. Of course, it's not the only one, but definitely a factor without which we would not have been able to achieve the successes we have reached.

There are other factors, and not of little importance. Ethical and moral principles have guided the conduct of the state security's men and women. I believe this is another essential idea. Imperialism, everywhere in the world, has defended its reactionary and oppressing regimes by killing and murdering. They make people disappear and tear out finger nails. They use electrical and chemical methods. They use all types of methods to soften the will of men. They defend their regimes by torturing in every way known. The empire and its allies cannot count on the people; they've resorted to techniques. The CIA has developed every known manner to torture people. The CIA was also the teacher, the university, for all those torture techniques used in Latin America that surprised the world. They used techniques that not even the Nazis used; techniques that not even the Nazis resorted to, and the Nazis were monstrously bloodthirsty, monstrously barbarous and brutal. They used to take people to the gas chambers and murder them in massive numbers. But this institution of making people disappear didn't exist in the world. It was invented by the CIA. This concept of taking a mother up to a tenth floor, taking away her child, and threatening to throw it off if she doesn't talk wasn't even used by the Nazis. The concept of raping women in front of her parents, brothers, husbands, or children wasn't even used by the Nazis. These are lessons, teachings, the empire gives its repressive forces on a continental level to impede progress, independence, and revolutions.

In turn, our security, which didn't fight for the interests of the empire but those of the people, and counted on the people, never, not even remotely, let itself be guided by repugnant practices of this type. It never let itself abuse prisoners physically. It never, without exception—and I'm saying this now—without exception, did it let itself be lowered to torturing people. As we have sometimes told our visitors: Our security organs knew more, or knew better, what the counterrevolutionaries were doing than the counterrevolutionaries themselves.

How is this possible? It is, by using intelligent methods such as penetration. Our security penetrated every counterrevolutionary organization. Toward the end, many of our comrades were the chiefs of the counterrevolutionary organizations. For example, if they met on 7 January on a particular street, at a determined time, and they talked about such and such a thing, and that counterrevolutionary was arrested 10 months later, it's possible that he wouldn't remember the names of the people with whom he had the meeting. Nor might he remember how many there had been, what they talked about, or the exact time of the meeting. However, our security did know because they had it in a file, they had it written down. This is how the penetrations were effective, the use of those intelligent methods was effective. When the counterrevolutionary was arrested, the special battle began. A mental battle began, a psychological one. The revolutionary, when the counterrevolutionary began to deny this, that, or the other, would tell him the entire story. This had such an impact on the person that they immediately fell apart and confessed everything. If there was something lacking, they would tell him.

In the case of Mr Valladares, a quote, brilliant poet among 10,000, unquote, he was even a poet in his wheelchair. The CIA published a lot of books abroad. This was done in such a way that he even fooled some of the people in the prisons. I asked one of our most imminent doctors to study the case, because for a time we began to believe that, sure, the guy might have a problem. This is how well [redacted] paralyzed.

After he is given an exhaustive examination, the doctor said: No, there's nothing wrong with him. What do you mean there's nothing wrong with him? There's nothing wrong with him. He's faking it. How can this be? Use technology on him. Use technology and prove it. Well, there was no other alternative than to put a television in his room. Of course, it wasn't one of those big, bulky cameras. [laughter] This camera, perhaps, was the size of a pinhead, I don't know. So they use this on the man. We immediately discover that he would look around and run to the bathroom where he began to do calisthenics. [laughter] He would do this at all hours when he could. He was one of the healthiest prisoners. We all had the cassette.

Finally, after many international requests from western governments that have good relations with Cuba, we analyzed the possibility of setting him free someday. He is then sent to one of the offices in the Ministry of the Interior and we say to him: We're going to show you something. We had already had the evidence for some time and he kept playing the invalid. When we played the videocassette for him and he saw this, this is the man who played the invalid for years, he suddenly stood up. He couldn't stand seeing the proof of the lie and the hypocrisy.

I remembered this when I was talking about this debate between the counterrevolutionary prisoner and the comrade from security. They reacted the same. When they are confronted by the truth, they fall apart. We can say that this had no exception. Since our comrades have a strict code of ethics, how could they ever allow themselves to fall into the use of physical violence? This isn't just because of their own consciences and education, but also because they knew they were principles of the Revolution which could not be violated. Since they did not resort to these techniques, their experiences and intelligence developed. The arm of the torturer is what develops, the refined use of torture, he becomes a thin-faced specialist in matters of torture. The revolutionary, who does not resort to these methods, develops his intelligence. He develops his intelligence! This is what leads him to elaborate ideas and formulas of all types to achieve the effectiveness of his job and the results of his investigations. This is why I say that this, the ethics with which the comrades of security worked, and will always work, was also a very important factor.

I think this explains the truly brilliant work they have done throughout these past few years. There is a third factor which is very important. Our comrades of security are revolutionaries. This is the essential quality. Those who defend the system of man's exploitation for man's sake, those who defend the empire and its equals in the world are, as a rule, mercenaries. They have professional interests, ideoprofessional interests, to call it by some name, economic interests. For them, security is a job; for the revolutionary it's a vocation, a sacred duty. They are driven by a truly profound motivation. This is clear.

I have mentioned three factors as I see them, of course. This third factor could include the personal or national characteristics of our people. There is no doubt that the men of our nation are characterized by a lively and sharp intelligence and imagination. They are also characterized by valor, even though valor is also a moral quality. It is a fruit of the conviction, ideas, and principles of men. Our compatriots all along history were characterized by that rich imagination, that clear intelligence, and for their ability to sacrifice themselves and challenge danger. The cooperation of the people is generated by them. This does not only have a practical effect, because of the information they're given, it also gives the security people a strong moral influence. They feel like they have the support of the people and this increases their spirit to fight, sacrifice, and work.

I'm not going to say, not by a long shot, that everything we know about security has been invented by us. We've invented some of it, we could say quite a bit of it. We have contributed, but also received, and it's important to stress this, cooperation from other socialist countries, especially cooperation from the Soviet Union. [applause] They had to face many similar problems because they had the revolutionary experience before we did. The reactionaries of the world began to test their weapons against them. This is how the Soviets gained experience in organization and other areas that were also very useful to us.

i believe that fairly recently we saw a test of the efficiency of our security organ's work in relation to the efficient, and brilliant manner with which they neutralized the CIA's work in our country that had been going on in our country for many years. Sometimes, when we were watching the documentary on the events that occurred, in relation to the U.S. spies and U.S. espionage in Cuba, we felt like laughing. It made us want to laugh because the role they played was so incredibly ridiculous that it seemed inconceivable. Once again the imperialists undcrestimated us. Once again, our people showed what they are capable of doing in order to defend our nation.

In that museum I was talking about earlier, there is a room that stirs up deep emotions and deep gratitude. There are pictures or portraits in that room of the comrades of the State Security organs who have died during these years in the execution of various tasks, even during noble internationalist missions. Today, we had the opportunity to again see the pictures and refresh our memories of numerous comrades who were killed one way or another in the past while carrying out their missions in the country, arresting a counterrevolutionary e:emy, fell anonymously undertaking risky missions beiiind enemy lines or in the very heart of the counterrevolution.

The history is very well known because it has been spoken about, written, and published. The feat of Comrade Delgado... [rephrases] Carlos Delgado... [corrects himself] Alberto Delgado was the basis for the well-known movie of the story of (Maizinicu)—the man of (Maizinicu). How many carried out these kinds of difficult and risky missions until the end, because the last ones in Escambray were captured in this way, in the same way? All of them were. Because there were hundreds of bandits, several hundreds, many hundreds. The troops, made up mainly of local workers and farmers, were assigned the primary task of fighting the bandits. They always had the cooperation of the State Security. It was the perfect combination of intelligence work and the troops' actions that made it possible for the country to do away with the bandits—up to the moment when the last bandits were captured in Escambray and the last counterrevolutionary leaders captured during their attempt to flee to the United States.

It would take a long time to talk about this. When I said that a book could be written about the assassination attempts, I also said that a book needed to be written on the whole story of Escambray. I think we need many more books to be written about the accomplishments of these comrades. There were others who gave their lives in different missions. Several of them gave it during internationalist missions. The security combatants have participated in an outstanding manner in important and unforgettable internationalist missions.

Today, we're able to see their pictures in that room. There are 89 State Security comrades who have given their lives in the fulfillment of their mission during these past 30 years. It is only fair that we remember them with emotion on a day like today.

However, when we mention those who have fallen gloriously, we cannot forget, not even for a second, the thousands and thousands of security combatants who have risked their lives, and worked so unselfishly during all these years. We cannot forget those who were willing to die and could have easily died in the fulfillment of their duties. At times we see martyrs, such as those who have truly gained a certain privilege or dream, perhaps the dream of all combatants. Generally, the combatants don't like to die a natural death because they prefer to die in action. Those who died reached that dream, that type of privilege. We should never forget, not even for a second, the ones who, if not their lives, gave us the best of their energy, of their intelligence, and of their youth to fulfill their duty. It is just to remember them also with extreme gratitude.

Comrades, I said that I wasn't going to talk for long and without wanting it, something has made my voice last like a combatant of security. [applause] I need to say that our struggle has not ended, it's not even close. I need to say that in the future great tasks and responsibilities, in every sense, await us. The enemy is there, powerful, full of pride, vain, more arrogant, feeling brave, and more imperious than ever. The enemy is euphoric. Some of them will even realize that socialism has embarked upon an irreversible process. To some—and perhaps to many who think like Reagan—socialism will become something like a nightmare in the history of humanity.

Who would have believed that those responsible for so much hunger and injustice in this world, namely, imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, and capitalism, which have created underdevelopment and (?the most horrible) inequality existing in the world today, that in a handful of rich, industrialized, capitalistic countries, which have looted the world, there are thousands and millions of human beings suffering from hunger who have many needs? They are also responsible for destroying the world's environment. They are responsible for poisoning rivers, oceans, and the atmosphere. They are responsible. It is responsible for nuclear weapons, which were tested on human beings, because what was Hiroshima and Nagasaki, at the end of a war in which the defeated were already defeated and where no nuclear weapon was needed. Those people were used as guinea pigs to see how many people could be killed in a second with a single bomb. It also wanted to see what the effects of radiation were. It also used this to sow terror in the world.

The empire is responsible for underdevelopment, unequal trade, for millions of people that die of curable diseases each year, for the hundreds of millions of people that go hungry, for the billions of people who have no running water or enjoy any well-being in this world. Those responsible for all of this attempt to make people believe that they have to resign themselves to this and that the idea of true independence, justice, real equality among men, brotherhood, the idea of social justice, is a

sort of nightmare and that history will become a nightmare. Imperialism is the nightmare. Capitalism, neocolonialism, and colonialism are the nightmares, as well as all the brutal measures of exploitation that have been imposed upon the world. Those are the nightmares. We have the hope that humanity will one day live without those nightmares.

There we have it. The empire has grown more conceited than ever and we have to ask ourselves how the empire views detente. How does the empire view peaceful coexistance? How does the empire view peace? A few examples of how the empire views peace and peaceful coexistance can be seen in what is talked about, what is said, in the empire's dreams to establish its peace, Roman peace, the peace of the empire, in its unquestionable attempt to play the role of the gendarmes, because of its unquestionable and relentless goal of crushing the world's revolutionary and progressive movement. We can clearly see how imperialism views peace and we cannot forget it because we are a neighboring country. We live next door and we can't move and if we could move we would still stay here and we would force them to move. [applause]

We see the empire's hostility against us in its campaigns. We have seen with how much vigor it has tried to accuse us of the things it does throughout the world, the things it does throughout the world [repeats himself]. The imperialists speak of torture in this country, even against children in kindergarten, or whatever they call that preschool level. They know, they know [repeats himself] how things are in this country. They insisted on this in Geneva. They have demonstrated all those monstrosities of which they spoke: the missing people, tortures, and the sophisticated torture methods of all sorts. They accused us of this. We have a clean slate without a single mark on it in this area. If there is anything that we do not need to rectify, it is this. However, if we have made other mistakes, we are determined to overcome them. In this area, however, there is nothing to rectify. We have a clean history without any blemishes. We have nothing to regret. We do not have to answer to history because history will have to speak, write, and answer to humanity on the exemplary and irreproachable conduct of our Revolution, its humane nature, its generosity, and its capacity to attain an ethical code without ever having violated it.

In 20, 30 or 50 years, no one will be able to talk about a crime committed in this era—about a missing or tortured person. History is not written with words. It is written with deeds, and our deeds speak for us. Our deeds clear us from any unjustified charges of this nature. Therefore, regarding this, we have such a clean page that we would not like to say that it is the best page that has ever been written in this area—something to which we are all witnesses. However, we could say it is such a clean page like the cleanest page that has ever been written. Our behavior has been such that there is nothing in our Revolution that can be used to debase it.

The empire will crash with its wicked campaigns, great pressures, and outrageous cynicism. We fought the battle at the UN Human Rights Commission because we felt it was our duty to do it. The empire also gets absorbed.... [changes thought] It openly and blatantly calls governments and demands that they vote in their favor, but does not manage to get the vote. If someday it did, we would remain calm, very calm, because our morals are very high. Our morals resist everything. They have been able to resist infamy 1 and 100 times. The empire has done its greatest damage to those it has lied to in the world with its insulting infamy.

However, we have the empire there. Let us never make the mistake of imagining that, after 30 years, risks and dangers have disappeared, that history will not be written again. History will have to continue being written every day. Each day will require more effort and intelligence from us, because the enemy becomes experienced. The enemy also learns, uses new weapons, and uses much more sophisticated methods that will force us to face them also with more intelligence and efficiency in our work. Therefore, the new generations of combatants will have so many tasks that maybe, when another 30 years go by, they will not envy the feats of this generation.

Let's hope there is peace. We are not against peace. We hope there is coexistence; we are not against coexistence. However we ask ourselves, what is imperialism's understanding of peace and coexistence? If someday it established relations with us, the job would probably be even more complex. This does not mean that the empire has become good and saint. It does not mean that the empire and its repressive organizations—Pentagon, CIA, etc.—have taken a place in the altars. It will not mean that. It will mean that the ways of struggle will change. As long as the empire is the empire, it will never resign itself to progressive ideas; it will never resign to socialism, to true social justice. It will never resign itself to the Cuban Revolution. If one day official changes of this kind in our international relations took place, it would not mean that we can have the right to rest on our laurels, because they change their techniques and camouflage themselves with different kinds of clothes at one time or another. Since we are not thinking about giving up the Revolution and socialism, we will tenaciously and constantly persist in our effort to perfect socialism and expand our methods in our march toward the future to make it more solid.

In our methods, in our march toward the future to make it more solid, our society and our Revolution will continue to need security services that are as efficient as the ones we have had during these past 30 years. Can it be possible, and I only say possible, that anybody here can ignore the risks of a confrontation of another nature? It is possible that the ideological war has an important place in this confrontation between the Cuban Revolution and the empire. This is why ideological strength, ideological preparation, and the profoundness of the combatants' ideology be elevated more than ever. This is why we should not only think

about the technical preparation of the combatants, but also, and as a profoundly fundamental matter, in the ideological preparation of the combatants.

Just the same, I think that we will face all of the tests and we shall again be victorious because we will always have the support of our revolutionary people and because the security combatants will always be among the first revolutionaries. Also, because the intelligence, valor, and heroism of the security combatants of our country, our people and our Revolution will always prevail.

Comrades, this is why today, on behalf of our party and our government, and especially of our people, we congratulate all of you and embrace all of you.

Fatherland or death! We shall win!

JUVENTUD REBELDE on Gorbachev-Castro Talks
FL3103024389 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2337 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Article by Soviet official Mikhail Subatkin: "When Two Leaders Meet" published by JUVENTUD REBELDE newspaper on 29 March; read during "Exclusivo" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev will go to Cuba on an official and friendly visit in a few days. As any of the Soviet leader's foreign trips, this visit will receive a lot of attention in the two countries and in the rest of the world. Surely, the general secretary of the CPSU will hold meetings with Cuban workers and will visit enterprises. In sum, he will be closely in touch with the country's situation.

Nevertheless, the main part of his trip to Cuba will logically be the talks at the highest level. What can be expected of them? Which issues will be the center of attention?. Undoubtedly, it is up to the ones talking to establish the agenda and present the matters they may want to discuss. However, it can already be said with a high degree of certainty that the upcoming dialogue will contribute to the strengthening of relations of friendship and cooperation traditionally existing between the USSR and Cuba.

This degree of certainty is suggested by the previous meetings between Gorbachev and Fidel Castro. There is no need to note that those meetings took place in an atmosphere of friendship, frankness, and mutual understanding showing identical views on many matters. These traits, which characterize Soviet-Cuban relations, are fruit of their cooperation in the most diverse areas. There is no doubt that the same atmosphere will prevail in Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Havana.

As far as the essence of the issues that will be the object of negotiation, it is logical to assume, taking into account the results of the previous meetings, that the two leaders will analyze in detail the current status and the outlook of bilateral relations, especially economic relations. In all other meetings Gorbachev has had with Fidel Castro, matters regarding development of economic cooperation have been dealt with. These matters now become especially important because optimum formulas are being sought in the USSR and Cuba to efficiently use the potentials of the socialist system.

Everything seems to indicate that it is necessary to update and diversify the forms and methods of bilateral economic cooperation. Work is already being performed in this sense. Therefore, it can be thought that the top leaders of the USSR and Cuba will also discuss this issue with the view of boosting the development of cooperation.

During previous meetings, Gorbachev and Fidel Castro referred to the problems their respective parties, the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba, are addressing at this time. It is expected that this exchange of views will continue.

Nowadays, the enemies of socialist Cuba are trying to discover contradictions in Soviet-Cuban relations, speculating with the differences of approach to the solution of one or another specific problem. It is not difficult to guess what are the objects of such speculations. Now that many socialist countries are intensely looking for the optimum means of development, it is not unusual for each party or leader to develop their own views regarding specific situations. Therefore, it is very important to exchange information and experiences, especially when none of the sides attempts to present its development model as the only correct and universal one.

For this reason, the Havana talks should favor the mutual enrichment of the two fraternal parties. The visit begins on 2 April and the international community will be promptly informed of the results of the Havana talks. Perhaps not all of the predictions presented here will be confirmed, but the truth of the matter is that the dialogue between Gorbachev and Fidel Castro will be an important international event and will contribute to the strengthening of Soviet-Cuban friendship.

Gorbachev To Speak at Special ANPP Session
FL3103133289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Preparations are progressing well for the welcome the people will give on Sunday to the highest leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev. This information was given in Havana by Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana City Province.

The party leader said that Gorbachev will arrive in the capital in the afternoon and the mobilization to greet the Soviet leader will be of a singularly qualitative nature. Lezcano met with representatives from all mass organizations to learn of the work being done. It was reported that more than half-a-million people will congregate

along several Havana streets to welcome the Soviet leader and more than 1,000 buses will be designated to transport the population to these locations.

This is Gorbachev's first trip to Cuba and he will fulfill an extensive program here. The focus of his activities will be on the official talks he will hold with the leaders of the revolution. Gorbachev will also speak at a special and solemn session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. The Soviet leader will also pay tribute to the national hero, Jose Marti, and the leader of the world's workers, Vladimir Ilich Lenin. Gorbachev will also will observe the work done in the capital by minibrigades, the family doctor plan, the scientists' dedicated work, and other aspects of daily life in our country.

House of Americas Director on Bias of Press
FL3103013089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] House of the Americas leaders gave a lecture at the Habana Libre's press center this afternoon to journalists accredited to cover Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's visit. Lecturers Roberto Fernandez Retamar, (Arturo Alape), and Rolando Lopez Del Amo explained the history and operation of the House of the Americas and its connection with the Latin American and Caribbean situation. Representatives of the foreign press showed interest in the practice of journalism in our country. The House of the Americas director responded to questions posed by a Canadian journalist.

[Begin Fernandez Retamar recording] A CIA network working in the country was dismantled here a few months ago. Several or many of the CIA members were attached to a diplomatic installation in Cuba. GRANMA newspaper published pages and pages with the photographs and biographical data of the CIA agents. The Cuban television showed numerous videos on the actions of those CIA agents. Do you follow me? Do you follow me? [preceding two questions in English] But THE NEW YORK TIMES did not consider that news was fit to print [preceding three words in English]. In the rainbow you mention, the color showing CIA agents in Cuba was lacking.

This is why we believe there is bias everywhere. We are biased from the point of view of the oppressed and in capitalist countries there is bias from the point of view of oppressors. Thank you. [end recording]

USSR To Acquire Cuban-Made Satellite Dishes
FL3003211889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Next year the Soviet Union will acquire 16-meter and 32-meter satellite dishes, which are being built in our country, and it will use them in the Inter-Cosmos program. The prototypes of those satellite dishes are being worked on for their introduction in the CEMA program.

The 32-meter dish is the most frequently used in television for satellite transmissions. High mechanical precision is required to build them out of hard aluminum. This model has won the praise in international fairs because of the quality of its design and finishing. It also won a gold medal in the latest Havana fair.

Some 200 satellite dishes have been built so far and investments are being made at the Villa Clara factory to increase its production capabilities.

Human Rights Dissidents Detained in Havana
PA3003214389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1657 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Havana, 29 Mar (AFP)—Four Cuban dissidents, among them Samuel Martinez Lara, general secretary of the Human Rights Party (PDH), have been detained in Havana since Wednesday [29 March], according to an announcement released in Havana by that illegal organization.

The PDH handed a communique to foreign correspondents in which it denounces what it regards as "a serious step in the escalation of repression" just a few days before the arrival of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

According to the PDH, the Cuban police arrested seven members of the dissident organization on Wednesday night in a house in central Havana, where the party's newspaper FRANQUEZA is edited.

The PDH communique stated that this morning Samuel Martinez Lara, executive secretary David Moya Alfonso, Carlos Pablo Segrera Martin, and Adrian Nunez de Cespedes remained incarcerated.

Gorbachev is expected to arrive in Cuba next Sunday and to stay until Wednesday, 5 April, on an official visit, which was originally scheduled for the beginning of December 1988, but had to be postponed because of the devastating earthquake in Armenia.

Military Contingents To Begin Return 1 April
FL3103030089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0203 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Martin Mora, Cuban ambassador to Angola, has expressed in Luanda his satisfaction because our country is ready to fulfill the timetable on the return of the military forces 48 hours before the planned date. The chief of the diplomatic mission in Angola said everything is ready shortly before 1 April for the return of new contingents to Cuba.

According to the withdrawal timetable established between Cuba and Angola at the end of last year, 25,000 military members should return to the country before 1 November. Three thousand have already come back in a show of good will.

The first of a series of farewell ceremonies took place in Luanda for the Cuban military contingents that will return to the fatherland in special flights beginning on Saturday [1 April].

Communications Minister, Delegation in Cambodia

BK2703033989 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Mar 89

[Text] A Cuban delegation led by Comrade Manuel Castillo Rebasa, minister of communications of the Republic of Cuba, arrived in Phnom Penh on 24 March to attend the 4th meeting of the Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Republic of Cuba.

On hand to welcome the delegation at the Pochentong Airport were Comrades Khun Chhi, minister attached to the cabinet in charge of domestic communications and transport, and Viriato Mora Diaz, Cuban ambassador to Cambodia.

CEMA Meeting Ends; Protocol Signed

FL3103131989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The fifth CEMA Time and Frequency Council meeting has ended with the signing of a protocol in Havana. The delegation representatives from the seven CEMA member countries that participated in the meeting, including Cuba, signed the protocol which sets working guidelines for the current year and 1990.

The final document includes comparison methods of the national patterns for countries that have it, the increase of its precision, and the better use of communications. For 4 days, specialists and researchers who met in the Cuban capital worked on the establishment of the material and organizational basis for metrological accuracy [aseguramiento] in all production branches and services.

Undoubtedly, the aid received from CEMA countries, especially from the Soviet Union, has been a decisive factor in Cuba's development in this important economic sector.

Committee Created To Plan May Day Parade

FL3003205289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Over half a million workers and people in general will participate in a combatant march to mark the International Workers' Day at the Revolution Square on 1 May. This was announced today during the creation of the national committee in charge of directing, organizing, and controlling the activities for that day. The group is composed of Pedro Ross, chairman; Salvador Valdes and Alfredo Morales, deputy chairmen; and 14 members.

The parade will be headed by our party's leadership, the labor union movement, the Union of Young Communists, mass organizations, and central state administration organizations. Representatives of workers who have won the Work Hero status and the Lazaro Pena Order, first degree, as well as heroic internationalist combatants will also be present. Construction contingents, outstanding manual cane cutters, centers that received the Che Guevara banner, and a group of outstanding youths representing the youth's participation in the 13th world festival will also be in the parade.

Production and services workers will fulfill various tasks to mark this date.

April Television Programming Schedule Noted

FL3003215989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The staff of Channel 6 and Tele-Rebelde have combined several programs for the month of April which will amount to a total of 593 hours of programming. Among the most significant spaces or programs are the ones that will be aired during school recess from 17 to 22 April, the marking of the Bay of Pigs victory, Mikhail Gorbachev's official visit, and the anniversaries of the Union of Young Communists and Jose Marti Pioneers.

The drama section will present the Spanish series "Cats on the Rooftop" in 13 installments on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 2030 and the continuation of "Second Teaching." The comedy section will premiere the also Spanish series "Broken Dishes" on Tuesdays at 2042. The children's section will present "The Nutcracker" during the "World of Fantasy" program on 17 April.

The music section of the Cuban television has prepared a gala in honor of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the visit of USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev and will be aired next Monday evening, 3 April, during the "Concierto Sentido" program. The Leningrad Symphonic Orchestra; Moscow State Symphonic Orchestra; Ukrainian Dance Group; the first award winners of the Tchaikovsky, Natalia Eklasova and Gregoriy Stuvs; and an ice skating dance group will participate in the program.

The news section will present in April an "Open Agenda" live program on Namibia and documentaries prepared with the help of the television centers.

The movie programming will count with 14 premiers in Cuba and 5 in television which will be aired at various times.

New Dams To Be Used for Food Production

FL3003164689 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Another 30 dams are currently under construction in Cuba. Ten of these will be finished this year. These dams will add another 2.208 million cubic meters of water to the nation's water capacity. The new installations will primarily benefit crops which are used in food production.

*** Waste in Health Care Spending Addressed**
32480096a Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 13 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Silvia Martinez Puentes]

[Text] It is a wise idea to talk about costs in health-care institutions, to ascertain how much a drug, an operation, a transplant costs.

It is a well-known fact that in spite of our serious economic limitations the state budget for this sector, which is of high priority in raising the living and health-care standards of the population, is growing every year. Last year, for example, the amount was 898 million pesos. And now there is talk, and rightfully so, of ascertaining what this colossal amount is being spent on.

Something worries us, though. This analysis, which is being conducted for the moment in all hospitals and which will gradually spread to the other institutions, seeks to assess efficiency but goes no deeper than the superstructure, the numbers, which say very little.

And we wonder: Why isn't there a discussion with the workers, physicians, nurses and all health-care personnel themselves about what is being spent and saved in each category?

We know well that resources are being siphoned off. Requests are made to pharmacies for amounts of drugs greater than indicated or for items not prescribed by the physician; diagnostic tools are being abused; equipment, syringes, bed clothes and thermometers are broken, torn or lost, and nothing happens.

At times more food rations than there are hospitalized patients are requested, nor is the work day taken advantage of qualitatively and quantitatively.

If in our household economy we plan how much we are going to spend, we ought to act like owners in our work places too and not squander resources. Why indicate treatment with drugs from the dollar area when it can be taken care of with domestically produced medicine?

But as long as the spendthrifts are not called to task, the problem will not be resolved; as long as the causes of the increase in the price of a pediatric-hospital bed (the established price is 29.86 a day) are not sought, the astronomical figures will remain; as long as the expenses and costs are not discussed and those who squander irrationally are not identified at a services assembly, resources will be siphoned off.

Everyone who needs the latest technology and the most expensive medicines has them, because they are there. The country acquires them, at times for much more than their price in freely convertible currency, but it is inappropriate not to use them with common sense.

The Havana Psychiatric Hospital is a tangible example of spending control. Every case is discussed with the workers, as was seen on a visit by the National Union of Health Workers, which also corroborated that this is the only hospital that applies the system as it is established.

The results there are valid because the analysis of costs is conducted with the spendthrifts and delves into the causes of the inadequacies. This superior form of exigency puts them on the road to becoming standard-bearers of the culture of quality to which Fidel is summoning us.

*** Biological Pest Control Program Described**
32480096b Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 12

[Text] Havana (AIM)—More than 39 million Lixophaga flies were released in 1988 to control the borer, a single-year record in Cuba, indicated Humberto Medina, the head of the National Program of the Biological Struggle for Sugarcane.

Biological pest control was thus provided for 76,114 caballerias [1 caballeria=33.2 acres], he added, leading to a striking reduction in the damage caused by the borer (or stalk borer), the main pest that preys upon the country's most important crop.

In addition, 219 caballerias benefited from the application of 13 tons of the Beauveria bassiana fungus, which is also used to control the borer (this pest causes more than 10 million pesos in damage a year, according to recent estimates).

In the branch there are currently 41 centers at which biological pest control agents are produced, 40 of them devoted to the breeding of the Lixophaga fly and 1 to the Beauveria bassiana fungus.

Medina pointed out that the treatment conducted in 1988 provided priority attention to the areas earmarked for seeding and to the growing areas that were showing the highest rates of borer infestation.

He indicated this year 4.3 million flies would be released and 15 tons of fungus applied.

He mentioned that the branch would also use bioregulators in the biological program, among which he singled out Apanteles and Trichogramma fuentesi, torre, which are designed to control defoliating agents and the borer, respectively.

Trichogramma is in the extension phase, and the results are very encouraging; thus, it will soon go into production. Apanteles, which is being applied in Villa Clara, will also be used in the rest of the provinces (it is the result of joint efforts by the Ministry of the Sugar Industry and the Central University of Las Villas).

*** Two Persons Jailed for Not Paying Fines**
32480095a Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish
27 Feb 89 p 2

[Report by Jose Yanes]

[Text] The Municipal Court of Old Havana has sentenced two residents of this district to 3 months in jail for not paying the fines that were imposed on them for personal misdemeanors under the conditions established in the law.

The system of fines went into effect on 1 May 1988 as part of the decriminalization philosophy of the new Penal Code that has been in effect since that same date. It is used to punish violations such as minor breaches of the peace and unlawful economic activities of little importance.

There is an office to collect these fines in each municipality of the country. A citizen has 30 calendar days to pay the fine from the time that it is imposed on him, plus 30 days to pay it in full but with the amount doubled.

After these 60 days collections proceedings begin, at which point the law allows the wages of an employed citizen or property equal in value to the amount of the fine to be attached.

If the citizen does not pay in any of these ways, he can be tried and imprisoned under Article 170 of the Penal Code.

The two citizens mentioned at the outset are among the first to be tried for failing to meet the obligations arising from their offenses.

They will not be the last, because the purpose of the system is to educate the citizenry about obeying the law and respecting the social order. Thus, under no circumstances will offenses go unpunished.

In Old Havana alone, collection proceedings are under way at the moment against 1,200 citizens, all of whom could be prosecuted if they fail to pay up.

Payment of the fine at the municipal collection offices relieves them of liability. Likewise, if the citizen pays the fine within the 3-day deadline that the law allows for an appeal, the penalty is annulled.

One of the two persons on trial availed himself of this option at the close of his trial by paying the collection agent who attends the hearing for this purpose.

*** Recent Medical Achievements Summarized**
32480095 Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish
20 Feb 89 p 12

[Text] Havana (AIN)—Cuba has gone 3 years without reporting a fatality from measles, a communicable disease that causes the death of two million children a year throughout the world, Julio Teja, the minister of public health, reported.

Reading the Public Health Ministry report for 1988, Teja indicated that the lowest figures in history were recorded for other diseases such as the German measles and the mumps, thanks to the triple viral vaccine that is administered to the entire population under the age of 15.

He emphasized that infant mortality has been reduced in 13 years from 27.5 per 1,000 live births in 1975 to 11.9 in 1988.

He described as an accomplishment the fact that Cuba was the first country to produce a vaccine against meningococcus B (800,000 doses), the effectiveness of which is around 70 percent.

As far as AIDS is concerned, he said that so far 3,734,109 tests have been conducted and 279 persons have been found to be serum-positive.

He indicated that the results of introducing the new medical certificate and eliminating the personal declaration have been highly satisfactory.

Dr Ramon Crespo, the secretary general of the Union of Health Workers, was in charge of the conclusions.

He also said that economic education was necessary for all workers and emphasized a further reduction of the ratio of 2.8 workers per bed achieved in 1987 to 1.9.

Barbados

Foreign Minister Resigns 'for Health Reasons'
FL3003225889 Bridgetown CANA in English
2227 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 30, CANA—The Barbados Cabinet has confirmed that Foreign Minister Sir James Tudor is giving up his post effective Friday, for health reasons. Last September, Sir James was hospitalised for several weeks after suffering a heart attack.

A statement from the cabinet office through the government's chief information officer, John Manning, said the 70-year-old senator who helped found the ruling Democratic Labour Party was praised by his colleagues, at his final meeting at government headquarters Thursday.

Acting prime minister, Phillip Greaves, who chaired the meeting said cabinet expressed "sincere gratitude" to Sir James "for his sterling contribution to Barbados not only at the political level but also at the diplomatic and community levels and in the area of education."

The NATION newspaper which broke the story Thursday, said attorney general Maurice King will take over responsibility for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

Grenada

Opposition Favors Ties With Communist Bloc

FL3003231989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2215 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, March 30, CANA—Grenada's parliamentary opposition National Democratic Congress [NDC] says it is not opposed to having ties with communist bloc countries if it wins the next general elections, constitutionally due no later than March 1990.

NDC leader Nicholas Brathwaite told reporters that once in office his party would like to have "good relations" with Soviet bloc countries based on mutual respect for each other.

Brathwaite, a former head of Grenada's interim government, stopped short of saying whether he would establish diplomatic relations with East European countries and communist Cuba once in office. He said this would depend on the NDC's assessment of the situation in terms of getting these countries to have mutual respect for Grenada.

"I have reasons to doubt that we might get that kind of mutual respect in our relationships with some of these countries," he said.

"...It is quite true to say that some of them are not quite happy about what took place here in 1983," he added.

This was in reference to the U.S.-led invasion to end Grenada's near five-year rule by a left-wing government which had close ties with communist countries. After the U.S.-led invasion, the interim government which Brathwaite headed for one year expelled all communist bloc diplomats. Brathwaite said the NDC would take Grenada back into the Nonaligned Movement which it left with the demise of the 1979-83 revolution.

He said that the party sees the movement as one which can play an important role in the "new dimensions" of world politics. Brathwaite, however, indicated that an NDC government would continue "our close relations with Western countries."

Dominican Republic

'Black Anglican Bishops' Hold Meeting

FL3003163989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The conference of black Anglican bishops, which has been meeting since Monday in the Dominican Republic, yesterday asked the Dominican Government to treat Haitian cane cutters better. Haitian cane cutters live under conditions resembling slavery, said Haitian Bishops (Smith Milien) and (Edwin Paraison) yesterday.

For his part, one of the Dominican bishops, (Telesforo Isaac), said the Dominicans employed in the cane fields of the Dominican Republic are treated no better than the Haitians. They are treated badly, and their dignity is trampled underfoot. [passage omitted]

Among the 11 Anglican bishops attending this meeting—which according to a report from the Dominican Republic is to end tomorrow—are two from the United States, one from Panama, and one from Costa Rica.

Priest Speaks on Cane Cutters

FL3003170089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The Haitian and Dominican bishops signed in 1985 a joint declaration in which they announced the formation of a pastoral center for Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Back then, certain church people already working with Haitians in the Dominican Republic had felt somewhat encouraged. For the past 2 years, however, Haitian priests—who are supposed to participate in the management of the center too—have not been present because the Haitian Church has not yet sent a replacement for Father (Nau), whose term ended in 1987. Nevertheless, a few Dominican priests are continuing the work.

Father (Agapito), who is the Dominican Church's official in this pastoral center, told us in an interview how anxiously—like dry soil in need of water—the Haitians in the Dominican Republic are awaiting the presence of the Haitian Church at their side. He said it was not an easy task to get the Haitians accepted, even in Christian communities, because of how thoroughly Dominicans have been brainwashed against Haitians.

Father (Agapito) informed us that there was much talk these days of a contract for Haitians to go cut cane in the Dominican Republic, because the Dominican Government needs laborers to cut the cane. Despite the big accident at the end of January in which some 50 Haitians died, clandestine recruiting has not stopped. Here is an excerpt of our talk with Father (Agapito).

[Begin recording] [(Agapito)] [Passage omitted] That is where they (?have begun). They have—I don't know how you would say that. In Spanish, you would say recruiting [reclutamiento].

[Unidentified reporter] That is where they recruit, where they take them?

[(Agapito)] Yes, in the Pedernales, Elias Pina, and Jimani areas. They recruit in all those areas and send them to the different areas where we have cane.

There are problems every day. Sometimes a (?sugar mill) official will say that Brother (Leon Delanois), who works with us; Father (Roman Mouton), who also works there; and I are the biggest of communists [(Agapito) laughs], in connection with this matter of the Haitian problem. Sometimes one of them threatens us. Sometimes people ask us why we are doing this for Haitians. We have to fight that mentality daily.

For example, the CEA [State Sugar Council] does not at present have enough Haitians to harvest the cane. It is looking for Haitians everywhere. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is this still going on, even after the big accident?

[(Agapito)] Yes. What it doesn't do any more is round them up as had been done when this big accident occurred; nevertheless, it is continuing the same old process to get Haitians so that they will cut cane.

[Reporter] There is talk of a contract these days. Are you hearing about that over there too?

[(Agapito)] Yes, but it hasn't been clearly defined. I mean, it is being talked about, but one cannot tell whether a contract has already been signed, or if it is just being talked about. There hasn't been any clear statement yet.

[Reporter] [Question omitted]

[(Agapito)] For the time being, what the Dominican authorities are saying about a contract is that they had already spoken to the Haitian authorities and that the Haitian authorities have agreed to sign a contract. [passage omitted] However, if anyone were to ask my opinion, I would say that the Haitian Government should not sign a contract with the Dominican Government. The reason I say this is that, first of all, with the number of Haitians we have in the Dominican Republic, if conditions in the sugar camps were to improve, there wouldn't be a need for more Haitians. If the Haitian Government signs a contract with the Dominican Government, it should demand that the Haitians who go there be given a number of guarantees.

[Reporter] Don't you think the Dominican Government is brandishing this matter of a contract for Haitian laborers because it needs to somewhat calm down the Dominican sectors (?with the most advantages) in this sugar business?

[(Agapito)] Yes, I think so. [passage omitted] For example, if there is a contract for 17,000 Haitians to go cut cane in the Dominican Republic, sometimes (?they bring in) 10,000 extra Haitians for the private sector. [passage omitted] [break in transmission] [passage omitted] I answer: Fine. Yes, I'm Dominican, and yes, I do want my country to progress. But I don't want my country to develop at the expense of the blood, of the wretched poverty, of other nationalities.

[Reporter] In other words, you are sort of considered a a turncoat, someone who doesn't love his country?

[(Agapito)] Right. That's what happens. When a Dominican tries to defend a Haitian, defend a Haitian's conditions [words indistinct] in the Dominican Republic, it is said that you don't love your country. [passage omitted]

In the first place, a Christian does not have a set country, you know what I mean? I know that love is what is of greatest importance to a Christian. I do love my country, my own people, my birthplace, my family, but I know my love does not stop at my country's borders, you know what I mean? [passage omitted] [end recording]

Haiti

FNP Denounces 'Demagogic' Avril Policy

FL3003161689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The National People's Front, FNP, headed by Marcel Baptiste and Lonesse Joseph, criticizes a number of positions taken by the government while the government simultaneously speaks of elections. [passage omitted]

The FNP feels it has a right to denounce, before the Haitian people, the demagogic policy being waged in Haiti by the general, a policy that creates confusion. [passage omitted]

The FNP invites the entire Haitian people to participate in the day of reflection to be held by the Democratic Bloc at the Oloffson Hotel on Wednesday 29 March, on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the Constitution.

The FNP seizes this opportunity to ask all people's organizations to begin a campaign of mobilization against the demagogic policy being waged in Haiti by General Avril.

Former Legislators Call for Manigat's Return

FL3003181789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1760 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the celebration of the 2d anniversary of the Constitution, the former members of the 44th legislature are meeting today at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel. We are going to hear from our reporters on the scene.

[Mobile unit reporter Nancy Roc—live] [Passage omitted] So far, the most important point in this news conference is the recommendation by the committee of parliamentarians, which has officially asked for the return of former President Leslie Manigat to Haiti. [passage omitted] This is Nancy Roc, from the Holiday Inn.

[Metropole reporter Marcus—live] Nancy, it must be pointed out to Radio Metropole's listeners that the parliamentarian who asked for the return of former President Manigat is a member of the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats]. He is the former deputy from Jacmel.

This is Nancy and Marcus, from the Holiday Inn for Radio Metropole.

MIDH's Bazin Proposes Socioeconomic Plan

FL3003175289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] has sent the press a copy of a text he read over Tele-Haiti yesterday evening. Mr Bazin is proposing a plan involving $1.2 billion over 10 years to improve Haitians' economic and social conditions and to help them recover their dignity through education, health care, and increased chances of getting a job. A new policy for new horizons is, according to Mr Bazin, the only logical, humane policy that will allow the country to prepare itself to confront the future under less difficult conditions.

Discussing the problem of the institutional disorder in which Haiti has found itself ever since independence, Mr Bazin says he has noted that there are not many peoples who have effected such a historical rupture—such a radical separation between a society of slavery with a rigid hierarchy, and a society of freedom—as has the Haitian people.

Mr Bazin says: We created history, but we are now paying the price of having done so. Today, continues Mr Bazin, the country is in a contradictory situation. On the one hand, we want a free society. At the same time, we want a president presiding over, directing, ministers who administer civil servants.

Mr Bazin thinks the only solution is a presidential system, where the parliamentary majority will cooperate with the presidential majority.

Discussing foreign relations problems, Mr Bazin said: No one can accept, as fate, intervention by others in domestic affairs.

Mr Bazin called on the political class to (?aim) beyond little maneuvers and sterile ambition.

That is what the MIDH leader said last night over Tele-Haiti, and he sent Radio Soleil a copy of the text.

Further on 28 Mar Message

FL3003201689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the Constitution, Marc Bazin of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] called for unity. Bazin proposes a $1.2 billion plan over 10 years to solve the nation's economic crisis.

The current juncture is full of risk, with the nation seemingly suspended between the past and the future. Such is the essence of the MIDH president's message on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the Constitution of 1987. According to Marc Bazin, the choices we make—or fail to make—will weigh heavily on the overall orientation of Haitian society between now and the year 2000. [passage omitted]

[Begin Bazin recording] Haiti's situation today is thus a serious matter and is the business of all Haitians. It is all of us who are responsible. We are all responsible and we are also the only ones responsible. Haiti's woes are the business of Haitians. It is pointless—as it too often is—to hope that salvation will come from elsewhere. In any case, the money that may be lent or given us will often be insufficient compared to our needs and a paltry sum compared to the means of those who give it to us. We must thus manage to combine a coherent economic policy, a climate of freedom, and a competent and transparent management of our affairs that inspires confidence. Only then will we perhaps be able to attract to our country gifts, loans, or investments of an amount nothing like those we have thus far been able to attract.

Meanwhile, let us keep in mind the other face of implacable reality. Henceforth, no one will agree to take our population surplus for us—no one except, perhaps, the bottom of the sea, and the beaches of Florida, on cold and sinister dawns. [end recording]

According to Bazin, today's world is a pitiless one where everyone, large or small, is engaged, on his own behalf, in fierce competition, for which Haiti is constantly having to pay the price. How can we hope to one day win if we are already, in the dressing room, still arguing over who lost the last game, who tried to play too personal a game and kept the ball too long, wonders Marc Bazin. The MIDH's president invites everyone to set aside sterile quarrels in order to confront the situation.

Beyond the present juncture, Mr Bazin thinks good choices for the future will (?involve) three axes of priority action: a good institutional balance; an economic policy aimed, first of all, at enriching the human capital; and the maintaining and safeguarding of national independence.

Bazin also decried the economic policy of the past years. [passage omitted] After 15 years of mess and almost $(?1) billion worth of debt, the country is even poorer than before. Marc Bazin advocates a new policy for new horizons, because, says Bazin, none of the development actors who might have made the basic investment produce a profit did so. [passage omitted]

Bazin thinks our desire to be independent requires that our relations with our partners be based on mutual respect, which supposes, first of all, self-respect. This self-respect highlighted by Marc Bazin involves several things. [passage omitted]

The application of this new policy would also bring, Bazin thinks, respect for our nation.

Human Rights Groups Want Articles Reinstated

FL3003160789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In a meeting with the justice minister Thursday [23 March] morning, the Haitian Journalists Association and the diverse human rights organizations tasked by the 28 November decree to form the investigating committee on the 29 November 1987 massacre asked the government to bring back into effect four constitutional articles. This must be done in order for them to be willing to be a part of the committee in question.

According to (Jacinthe Saurel), deputy director of the Ecumenical Center for Human Rights, the fact that Articles 42, 42.1, 42.2, and 42.3 are among the 36 articles put on ice by the government is going to hinder the investigating committee's work.

Also, the human rights organizations are continuing to ask that the 28 November decree aimed at setting up a new investigating committee be amended.

(Jacinthe Saurel) said they were going to meet on 30 March with the justice minister—who is preparing the draft of the decree to replace the 28 November decree—especially so that he can tell them what the government's decision is regarding the articles it has put on ice.

[Begin recording] [(Saurel)] [Passage omitted] When you examine these articles closely, you see that you cannot investigate any members of the Armed Forces, whether in active service or not. As you know, according to the Constitution, a member of the Armed Forces, even if he has been discharged or is retired, always remains a member of the Armed Forces, and he normally remains governed by the military law. And under the Constitution, if you remove these particular articles, such people cannot be summoned to court. They [not further identified] will tell you outright that Article 42.2 is not in the Constitution, thereby giving such people every right to claim that they cannot be investigated. Thus, this means that in order for this investigating committee to be formed, these articles must be put back into effect. That's the first thing.

If they put these articles back into effect, the Justice Ministry has already agreed to sit down with us to write a new decree. The ministry is willing to amend the decree to include all our ideas. They have no problem with (?amending) all of Article 6 of the 28 November decree. They are even willing to sit down with us and show us the draft decree, so that we can work on it together and come up with a real decree. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Are you categorical about not participating in the investigating committee if they don't reinstate these articles?

[(Saurel)] I think the word categorical is a bit strong. However, I think that, actually, (?in) principle, we will be unable to get anywhere if this is not done. I mean, how are we going to get anywhere? [end recording] [passage omitted]

However, the Haitian Center for the Defense of Public Freedoms, Chadel, did not participate in this meeting. Jean-Jacques Honorat says that it is not possible to speak of an investigating committee because of the articles the government has put on ice; these articles in particular concern members of the Armed Forces. According to Mr Honorat, members of the Armed Forces are mostly responsible for the 29 November massacre. Therefore it is not possible for the investigating committee to function, as long as the 13 March decree temporarily shelving certain constitutional articles has not been rescinded. [passage omitted]

Peasants' Organization To Hold Congress

FL3003161889 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] The MPM, which is the Milot Peasants Movement, [a People's National Assembly affiliate] announces that it is going to hold a congress next 15-16 April, 2 years after invading the lands of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Milot. The purpose of this congress is for the MPM, other peasants' organizations, and all other organizations in the people's camp to meet in order to together reflect upon what they might be able to do to get themselves out of the difficult situation they are experiencing.

The press release is signed for the MPM by Saint-Sivice Delinois, president; and Saint-Valin Alcius, secretary general.

Justice Ministry Gives Unions New Deadline

FL3003162689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] In a communique responding to a CATH/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin-American Central Organization of Workers] request in connection with the choice of a union federation representative to the Provisional Election Council, the Justice Ministry announces that in conforming with the dispositions of Article 13 of the decree of 23 February 1989, a majority of workers' federations and organizations legally registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs must be allowed to ratify the choice of a union federation representative [to the Election Council]. Consequently, the government is extending the deadline given to these federations and organizations to submit to the Justice Ministry the name of their chosen representative and a certified copy of the official minutes of the (?meetings) connected with this matter. The new deadline is 30 March.

In conclusion, the communique says: The military government's decision falls within the framework of the policy of concerted action and the seeking of a consensus on essential matters connected with the national life. It also (?is part of) the line initiated by the president of the Republic, General Prosper Avril, with a view to definitively implanting democracy in Haiti.

The Justice Ministry communique bears the signature of Justice Minister Augustin Romain Ceme.

National University Works Toward Autonomy

FL3003163389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpts] The seven-member university committee was on 17 February 1989 [date as heard] empowered by the minister of national education, youth, and sports to work to set up all the ways and means to hold an election to choose a temporary rector for the university. It is also responsible for preparing a draft outline law for the National University of Haiti.

Consequently, this seven-member university committee announces that there is going to be an election next 9 April to choose a rector to head the university. [passage omitted]

This election will take place in two stages. As of 3 April, each university school is to appoint three people from among the students and teachers (?plus) a dean or a representative of their administration. These people will form an electoral college. Their role will be to vote in the name of their school, based on the voting that is to take place in each school.

Ronald Jean-Jacques, a member of Feneh's [National Federation of Haitian Students] national directorate, feels these elections are a first step toward the autonomy of the university. [passage omitted]

Citizen Voices Suspicions of 'Contraband'

FL3003174789 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] There were rumors last week of an imminent shortage of white sugar in Haiti. According to the State Purchasing Agency [Magazen Leta], there is sufficient white sugar on the market. A boat unloaded some 350,000 sacks of white sugar on the Port-au-Prince wharf yesterday. Two more boats are scheduled to arrive during the month of April. The source that gave us this information said there was no black market and that white sugar was being sold at the usual $31 a sack.

A citizen named Lucien Princivil says, in a press release, that a Dominican vessel has unloaded some 200,000 sacks of white sugar that are currently being sold at $31 per sack at the Haitian Armed Forces supply center and at $32-33 by a manufacturer of windows on the airport road. According to a Haitian Armed Forces supply center official, the sugar that Mr Princivil is talking about belongs to a foreigner—a foreigner who manufactures windows in Haiti, and who seems to have set his own price on the road to the airport. Some people are wondering whether this isn't some kind of understanding that's been reached, some kind of conspiracy, between this foreigner and the Ministry of Commerce for the sack of sugar to be able to sell at $32-33 on the airport road.

For his part, Lucien Princivil is wondering if this isn't a form of contraband—a way to get around the latest government measures regarding the price of products of prime necessity.

Ministry Announces Presidential Appointments

FL3003182089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Excerpt] A Ministry of Information and Coordination press release announces that by presidential commission dated 22 March 1989, Mr (Fresnel Belizaire) is appointed judge of the civil court of Port-au-Prince; Mr (Jean-Claude Siclait) is appointed examining magistrate of the civil court of Port-au-Prince; Mr Antoine Toussaint is appointed doyen of the civil court of Mirebalais; and Mr (Cyrus Joseph) is appointed deputy representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor to the civil court of Saint-Marc, land section.

Also by presidential commission, dated 16 March 1989, Mr (Benjamin D. Dorsima) is appointed surveyor for Delmas. [passage omitted]

Officers Discharged; Narcotics Service Created

FL3003182989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] According to a report from an extremely reliable source, four high-ranking Haitian Army officers have been discharged from the Army. The four are Lieutenant Colonels Serge Toussaint, Lionel Liautaud, Antoine Jean-Gilles, and Rosny Casimir. All these lieutenant colonels have been discharged. They are no longer in the Haitian Army.

We have also learned that a new service has been created within the Haitian Armed Forces. It is called the Narcotics Service. Its mission is to fight drug trafficking, as well as everyone who takes drugs throughout Haiti. This service is headed by a high-ranking Army officer, whose title is head of the Narcotics Service, and he is as powerful as the commander of a military department.

We remind listeners that this new service is a different service from the narcotics service that has existed for a long time within the Port-au-Prince police.

Agreement Signed With Martiniquais Trade Union

FL3003172789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Excerpt] A cooperation agreement between Haitian and Martiniquais unions was signed yesterday. CATH, which is the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, and the Martiniquais workers union federation [centrale syndicale des travailleurs Martiniquais] stressed in Port-au-Prince, the need to work toward the creation of a confederation of revolutionary organizations of Caribbean workers. In a joint communique, these two union federations said they felt such an initiative might make the interests of the workers of the Caribbean area prevail—particularly, (?in view of) the European Economic Community's offensive.

They also announced that in view of fact that the CATH and the Haitian Workers Committee—COH, another Haitian union federation close to the CATH—are being handicapped because they are underequipped, the Martiniquais union is going to launch a campaign of international solidarity with a view to buttressing the means of struggle of the Haitian workers.

This joint communique was issued following the visit to Haiti of Mr (Marc Pulvar), who is the secretary general of the Martiniquais workers union federation and national secretary of the pro-independence movement of Martinique [mouvement pour l'independence de la Martinique]. The visit ended yesterday [27 March]. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Gunman Kills Police Officer, Wounds Woman

FL3003171989 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 30, CANA—A policeman was shot dead and a woman injured when they came under a hail of gunfire in the outskirts of the capital Wednesday night, police said Thursday.

The police department said Detective Constable Ian Jacobs was shot several times, and his unarmed friend hit in the leg when a lone gunman opened fire on them just before 1130 pm.

Jacobs, who died on the spot, was the second policeman killed here this year.

The police said Jacobs had driven home a colleague to the Red Hills area of Kingston's adjoining St Andrew Parish, and on his way from the area stopped to talk with a female friend when the gunman attacked.

There was no early indication of the motive for the attack, police said.

Finance Secretary Reports on Recent Trip

PA3003161589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Mar 89

[Text] Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Pedro Aspe Armella has told President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, while reporting on his recent trip to four countries, that the future for Mexico's foreign debt renegotiations is clearer and better defined. Aspe said the concerted effort and unity of Mexican society will be of paramount importance for successful negotiations.

Aspe explained that to enact the so-called Brady plan, Mexico will have to work together with the United States, the IMF, the World Bank, and, of course, commercial banks. The finance secretary's trip began in the United States, where he met with President George Bush, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, and Secretary of State James Baker.

The Japanese Government showed interest in discussing possible economic and financial cooperation in view of Mexico's effort to restart its growth. Japan is willing to grant loans to Mexico, regardless of Mexico's export income, on par with loans made by the IMF and the World Bank. The possibility of the Japanese Government granting Mexico loans with preferential interest rates for strategic infrastructure projects was also discussed.

In Amsterdam, the Netherlands, it was agreed to increase the capital of the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB]. This means that between 1990 and 1993, the IDB will be able to lend Mexico around $500 million annually, which will cover Mexico's yearly principal and interest payments.

French President Francois Mitterrand showed broad knowledge, deep understanding, and much support of the Latin American foreign debt problem. He offered support as part of the Group of Seven industrialized countries to seek an adequate and rapid solution so the area can resume its economic growth.

Opposition Leader Breaks With Left-Wing Group

FL3003224289 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2114 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Apaxtla, Mexico, 30 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, leader of the left-wing coalition National Democratic Front (FDN), has announced that his movement is leaving the opposition block. During a flash tour through the southern State of Guerrero, Cardenas announced that the Cardenist Front for the National Reconstruction Party (PFCRN) was breaking away from the FDN, after weeks of tensions and mutual accusations.

The PFCRN was part of the FDR coalition created prior to the 6 July presidential elections. The coalition turned into the second political force of the country with 30 percent of the votes. The PFCRN recently criticized Cardenas and sided with the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Cardenas, former governor of the State of Michoacan said in Apaxtla: We are not going to be with those who have alliances with the regime. He also confirmed that the FDN will not launch joint candidates with the PFCRN in the next elections for governor in the northwestern State of Baja California.

Cardenas, who is also leader of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), said the PFCRN already defined itself and believes that its alliance with the ruling PRI is a blow to the FDN.

The internal squabbles of the FDN also include the Popular Socialist and Authentic of the Mexican Revolution Parties. In addition to these groups, the FDN is composed of the so-called Democratic Movement, which resulted from a rupture in the PRI and is headed by Cardenas and the Mexican Socialist Party (PMS).

Cardenas and the rest of the FDR leaders set for this year the creation of a center-left party, the Democratic Revolution Party, which is expected to turn into the PRI's main opponent. However, political analysts believe the break with the PFCRN destroys the creation of a solid left-wing opposition.

The break has already had its effects. National newspapers reported today that some 22,000 people left the PFCRN in the central State of Morelos.

El Salvador

Recent FMLN Attacks, Actions Reported

22, 25 Mar Military Actions

PA3003144789

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 28 March broadcasts two military reports lasting approximately 5 minutes.

The first report states that at 0330 on 25 March, a Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] unit launched a 5-minute attack against a 5th Infantry Brigade unit located at Las Delicias Hacienda, San Esteban Jurisdiction, San Vicente Department, using people's artillery, hand grenades, and rifle fire. The report adds that "after 5 minutes, the enemy was under complete control, having suffered 12 casualties." The FMLN claimed they left unimpeded "after completing the mission."

The other report tells of a "daring ambush using three M-18 mines and contact grenades" that took place at 0630 on 22 March against a National Guard unit at (Quebrada la Algrabilla), Canton Las Puertas, Mercedes Umanas Jurisdiction, "inflicting six casualties upon the National Guard."

Rebel, Police Casualties Noted

PA3003135889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Military authorities have reported that two peasants were killed when they set off a mine in Morazan Department. The incident took place in the vicinity of Perquin, when Ernesto and Rosa Fernandez set off an explosive device presumably abandoned by the FMLN.

It was also reported that four Treasury Police officers were wounded last night when urban commandos attacked them in Soyapango. The incident took place on Army Boulevard while the officers were on their way to start guard duty at a shoe factory.

In another action, six insurgents were wounded during a clash with 1st Brigade soldiers in San Pedro Perulapan Jurisdiction, Cuscatlan Department.

Helicopter Reportedly Downed

PA3103035689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0011 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] A report from San Miguel Department states that FMLN antiaircraft units ambushed a Salvadoran Air Force helicopter in Arenales Canton at 1700 GMT on 29 March, as it was traveling from Usulutan to San Miguel Department. Our units' effective antiaircraft fire hit and damaged the helicopter. The helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing in Jucuapa.

This report confirms that the pilot was killed and one crewmember was injured as a result of the emergency landing. We repeat: The pilot was killed and one crewmember was injured as a result of the emergency landing. That is the report we are receiving from Jucuapa, where the helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing.

The report adds that a few minutes after the ambush a helicopter gunship arrived in the area, launching rockets and indiscriminately firing at the La Noria and La Pena Cantons' civilian population. We send our revolutionary greetings to San Miguel Department, because we recognize our comrades' good marksmanship.

Bomb Explodes in San Salvador

PA3103043989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0335 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] One person was killed and three others injured tonight as the result of a bomb explosion in downtown San Salvador. The explosion took place on First Avenue West, between the (Vicas) Store and the Central Reserve Bank. [10-second break in reception]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] [Words indistinct] were taken to the Rosales Hospital. One of them is Marilin Ramirez, who lives in Sacamil neighborhood of the [word indistinct] neighborhood, [words indistinct] No 5. The other person is Dora Milagros Argueta Maroquin, who lives in [word indistinct] neighborhood No 15-36. This person was taken to the hospital by the Green Cross. The other person is Silvia Ayala, who lives in [words indistinct] No 5, telephone number 92760548. [end recording]

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 0423 GMT on 31 March carries a similar report which states: "In an initial report, the Salvadoran police state that the bomb was placed at the store by FMLN urban commandos during the busy hours of the day. No organization, however, has yet claimed responsibility for the attack."]

Guatemala

Further on Pavon Settlement; Prisoners Released

PA3003223889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2131 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 30 Mar (AFP)—The longest and most spectacular mutiny in the history of Guatemala's penal system ended peacefully at noon on Thursday [30 March] when Government Minister Roberto Valle signed an agreement with three of the leaders of the prison rebellion inside the prison itself.

Ninety-six hours after the mutiny started, Valle arrived at the Pavon prison, 20 km southwest of the capital, to sign a document ending the rebellion.

In front of a crowd of over 100 national and foreign journalists and photographers, Valle signed the agreement with the "representatives of the prison population," Jorge Gutierrez, 21, Jose Luis Marroquin, 30, and Enrique Romero, 40, in a formal ceremony that lasted over 15 minutes. [passage omitted]

Just as had been announced Tuesday night, the agreement signed by the minister and the mutinous prisoners includes, among other government promises, an offer to reduce sentences of all prisoners in the country by a minimum of 5 years.

Likewise, President Vinicio Cerezo's government agreed not to take any reprisals and, as a guarantee, Cerezo agreed to replace the directors as well as the prison guards.

Complying with the agreement, the mutinous prisoners almost immediately released the last 575 hostages, most of them women and children, who had been held in the prison since last Sunday in a prison environment with poor sanitary conditions.

The prisoners also agreed to turn over the weapons that were stolen from the prison's weapon racks, which, according to the latest reports, amounted to 78 M-1 carbines.

The freed hostages were immediately taken to the Guatemalan Red Cross center in downtown Guatemala City for a complete medical checkup before they are turned over to their relatives.

'Possible' Uprising Reported at Canada Prison

PA3003214589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2027 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Approximately 300 members of Guatemala's security forces were deployed today to Escuintla, 57 km south of the capital, in the face of a possible inmate mutiny at the Canada prison.

Radio Station "Emisoras Unidas," which attributed the information to official sources, reported that security forces have surrounded the prison by order of the interior minister and Police Chief Captain Romeo Guevara.

However, police sources told ACAN-EFE that they know nothing about the deployment of security forces to the area, acknowledging however that such an action "is a possibility."

A spokesman for the General Directorate of Prisons said that the Canada prison, Guatemala's second largest after Pavon prison, houses 734 common criminals.

According to the radio station, their sources do not know how long the policemen will stay in the area, adding that that depends completely on the prisoners' behavior.

This security forces mobilization takes place just when the government was putting an end to a mutiny of about 200 prisoners at Pavon prison, which began on Sunday and has left 12 dead and about 20 injured.

The government said it is committed to making judicial efforts to reduce sentences, to reevaluate prison authorities, and to guarantee the physical safety of the rebellious prisoners.

In exchange, the prisoners agreed to lay down their weapons and to release about 500 hostages, whom they have held since Sunday.

Honduras

Armed Forces on Services Provided to Contras

PA3103045089 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 35

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces admitted yesterday that they have benefited from U.S. economic aid to the anti-Sandinist rebels, although they explained that the dollars received are payment for services performed for those troops, such as the sale of uniforms or the exchange of dollars.

In its morning newscast yesterday Radio America revealed a document drafted in the United States 2 years ago which provides the names of organizations and persons who received dollars from the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

Among the organizations are the Honduran Armed Forces, and the names provided include former Naval Commander Colonel Leonel Gutierrez Minera and Colonel Dagoberto Aspra, presently the Armed Forces personnel chief.

Two checks are listed as having been made out to the Armed Forces, one dated 6 November 1985 for $113,750 and the other dated 18 November 1985 for $742,939. This means that just in 1 month the Honduran Armed Forces received more than $1 million [figure as published], an amount not recorded in the Central Bank.

The payments made between 1985 and 1986 include a check for the Armed Forces Military Industry (INFA) for $881,250. Another check for $450,000 was issued in the name of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, although his name was not on the check.

Colonel Gutierrez Minera appears as having received a check for $10,000, and Colonel Aspra two checks totaling $30,000.

In this regard, Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, official Armed Forces spokesman, said that the checks listed in that document "are different payments to the INFA" for the sale of uniforms, boots, and tarpaulins to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

Suarez Benavides said that the INFA is an Armed Forces organization that sells such supplies to any organization that requests it after submitting a sample of the clothing or boots required.

Regarding the checks issued in the name of the commander in chief, the military spokesman explained that this is due to the fact that INFA is run by the highest military leadership.

In the specific case of Colonels Gutierrez Minera and Dagoberto Aspra, who together received approximately $40,000 from the anti-Sandinist contras, Suarez Benavides said that what they did was exchange lempiras for dollars for personal expenses.

Suarez Benavides emphasized that the dollars received by the Armed Forces and by some of its officers are in no way "donations" made by the contras. Rather, in one case it was payment for clothing, boots, and tarpaulins, and in another case it was used to exchange foreign currency for lempiras.

He said that the money was received from the anti-Sandinist suppliers, emphasizing that no officer nor the Armed Forces ever received money from foreign armed groups or the United States.

Suarez Benavides said that the Honduran Armed forces have suspended the sale of these items to the contras.

Nicaragua

Ortega To Allow Contra Leaders To Return

PA3103040089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0310 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 30 Mar (AFP)—The contra leaders who decide to return to Nicaragua and join the political process may do so, "and we will study each case to ascertain if an amnesty is necessary for the person's return," Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced today following a 2-hour meeting with former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez. The Sandinist leader added: "The important thing is for the contra leaders to go to our consulates and request a permit to return to Nicaragua."

Likewise, Suarez, a leader of the opposition Democratic and Social Center (CDS) and vice president of the International Liberal Progressive Party (ILP), recommended that the Nicaraguan opposition participate in the next elections, which are scheduled for 25 February 1990.

The former Spanish prime minister said: "I expect to see changes made so that all political parties may participate on an equal basis." Suarez emphasized how important it is for the election process to be "honest so the election results are not disputed by anyone."

Suarez emphasized the "extremely important" role that the general amnesty decreed by his government in 1978 had in the Spanish political transition process. The former Spanish prime minister underscored that if a similar measure were applied in Nicaragua, "it would promote a complete democratization and allow the achievement of peace in Central America and this country." Nevertheless, Suarez said he had made no recommendations, limiting himself to "telling Ortega what he would do in Ortega's place."

During his 2-day visit to Nicaragua, Suarez also met with Vice President Sergio Ramirez, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and practically all the political opposition parties and labor unions in the country except for the extreme left parties, which did not talk with the visitor.

The former Spanish prime minister referred to the process of "perestroyka" and said that, along with the new U.S. policies, "a different political map of the world is being drawn." Asked when he would return to power, Suarez smiled broadly and explained that he does not like to talk about domestic politics when out of Spain. He added, however, that his return to power "is unavoidable, but do not ask me when."

President Ortega told reporters he has sent a letter to his Central American counterparts, explaining his views on Washington's humanitarian aid to the Nicaraguan rebels. Ortega emphasized that the decision affects the spirit of the El Salvador presidential agreements, adding that if "some adjustments" are made, the bipartisan agreement "might be viable, provided that the funds are destined for the contras' demobilization."

The Nicaraguan president announced that in the 1st week of April he will present proposals to the National Assembly for reforming the electoral law and the media law. Ortega added that his government will take into consideration the opposition parties' proposals on the issue. Asked if he would allow the opening of a private television channel, the president said: "Television should be at the service of society, not a family or group of individuals." Reminded that the opposition accuses his government of monopolizing television, the Nicaraguan president answered: "Television here is at the service of the community."

Arce Criticizes Contra-Opposition Meeting

PA3103044589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] The FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] is not a party created solely to run in elections; instead, it has the historic responsibility of spreading the revolution to bring the people out of their misery and lack of development, said Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission. Nevertheless, "we are preparing our forces for the 1990 elections and the upcoming celebration of the revolution's 10th anniversary," Arce added.

In statements to Radio La Primerisima following a meeting with the FSLN's 3d Region Committee, as well as with political secretaries of district and municipal committees and leaders of Sandinist youth groups, Arce talked about the activities being carried out for the elections and the 10th anniversary celebrations. He also talked about other national and international political issues.

As for the opposition parties' decision to meet with the counterrevolutionary leadership in Guatemala, Arce described it as an "immature act" on the part of the political groups that are willing to attend the meeting, because they are helping the counterrevolution. "The civilian opposition would be helping to keep the contra movement alive," Arce said.

As for the bipartisan agreement reached by President George Bush and U.S. congressional leaders to provide $45 million in "humanitarian aid" to the mercenaries, Arce said Nicaragua is confident that the Central American presidents will fulfill the agreements signed in El Salvador. He also said the Bush agreement is "not an official U.S. policy yet," because the issue has to be discussed by Congress.

Arce talked about the constant effort by the FSLN National Directorate to review the actions carried out by the party in defense, production, and other duties.

Arce said even though the FSLN is not a party created solely to run in elections, it is getting ready to win the elections "because it has great trust in our people." He said the party is also getting ready to continue the struggle in the three principal areas that are dictated by the current reality: struggling against hyperinflation, increasing production, and increasing the participation of skilled labor in the country's agricultural production.

Yesterday afternoon, Arce met with the political secretaries of the rank-and-file committees of District 4 in Managua, with whom he reviewed the willingness of the Sandinist forces to fulfill their duties in this important area of the capital.

FSLN rank-and-file leaders from factories such as Rolter, Texnicsa, La Selecta, IMEP [People's Metal Industry], and the brewery; from the neighborhoods of Jorge Dimitrov, Las Torres, Villa Venezuela, and the eastern market; and from various institutions provided several ideas on how to increase Sandinist influence over the population.

At the end of the meeting, Commander Arce asked the local party leaders to guide the masses toward the solution of their problems. "We want a party that not only receives complaints but can also provide solutions," he said.

Arce explained that the FSLN's "review and adjustment" process is not only aimed at the celebration of the 10th anniversary and the preparations for the elections. Actually, he said, the review process is necessary because "the revolution is ending a historic stage: We have defended our power for 10 years, and we are defeating the aggression imposed on us by the U.S. Government."

The working meetings with the party's rank and file in Managua will continue today with members of the Sandinist youth in the 3d Region and party militants from the manufacturing industry. The meetings will end with an assembly held by the region's Sandinist cadres.

Opposition Creates New Front To Push Reforms

PA3003150189 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0547 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 29 Mar (REUTER)—Seven center and rightist opposition groups announced today that they have formed a new front to pressure the government into promoting democratic reforms before the 1990 general elections.

Politicians from the seven groups—which include parties and party factions—have said they want public officials, including President Daniel Ortega, to resign 6 months before the elections if they are to seek reelection. They also said during a news conference that they want the government to erase a law that prevents the opposition from receiving funds from the United States and enact laws that prevent the military from voting and allow citizens who live abroad to vote. They also demand that the opposition be allowed to verify that the elections are fair.

The new group comprises many politicians who have been accused by the government of working with Washington and the anti-Sandinist rebels to overthrow the Ortega government.

The front does not include leftist parties that heretofore had been cooperating in a broad opposition movement composed of 14 parties to exert pressures to obtain reforms.

Roger Guevara, a leader of the Democratic Coordinating Board—a coalition composed of four opposition parties—and some businessmen and labor leaders have said other parties would be welcomed by the new group. The four parties of the Democratic Coordinating Board are represented in the new front.

The politicians have also said members of the 14-party coalition have decided to hold talks in Guatemala within 1 or 2 weeks with contra leaders. Guillermo Potoy, a leader of the Social Democratic Party, has said: "We were invited" by rebel leaders "to discuss an open agenda that could include their return to Nicaragua to take part, if reforms are carried out, in the election campaign."

Around mid-February the presidents of the region agreed to design a plan to dismantle the anti-Sandinist forces in exchange for democratic reforms in Nicaragua and for the holding of free elections prior to 25 February 1990.

Polls in Nicaragua show that 30 percent of the people support the Sandinists. None of the other parties reached the 5-percent mark.

Civic Democratic Opposition Issues Statement

PA3003191689 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Document issued by the Nicaraguan Civic Democratic Opposition in Managua on 29 March]

[Text]
Managua, 29 March 1989
Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President
Government House

Mr President:

Nicaragua's Civic Democratic Opposition [Oposicion Civica Democratica de Nicaragua—OCDN], composed of several ideological movements, has signed this document in response to the Nicaraguan Government's proposal that appears in the joint declaration signed by the Central American presidents in El Salvador on 14 February 1989.

Whereas:

1. The pledges fall within the framework of Esquipulas II and the Alajuela declaration and constitute a common and indivisible whole;

2. The agreements force the Nicaraguan Government to consider dialogue over violence, to have reason prevail over rancor, to fully comply with the historic challenge to forge a peaceful future for Central America, and to pledge to struggle for peace and to eradicate war;

3. The Esquipulas II agreement signed in Guatemala on 7 August 1987 and the Alajuela agreement on national reconciliation include a broad, nationwide dialogue and general amnesty decrees that have not been fulfilled;

4. Regarding democratization, the Nicaraguan Government pledged to promote an authentic, pluralist, and participatory democratic process that would allow the varying schools of thought access to honest and periodic election processes, for which there must be total freedom of television, radio, and press as a means of unrestricted freedom for all the ideological groups. The media must be allowed to operate without previous censorship. None of these pledges have been fulfilled;

5. The conditions inherent to every democracy require free, pluralistic, and honest elections in an election process governed by the strictest rules of equal access by all the political parties to the media and governed by broad measures to allow public demonstrations and all types of proselytizing propaganda, all of which do not exist in Nicaragua—even though in Alajuela the government renewed its pledge to immediately, unhesitatingly, and straightforwardly fulfill these promises in a full, public, and evident manner without excuses;

6. The OCDN welcomes with interest and values in its full dimension the Central American presidents' request, in the El Salvador document, to Nicaragua's political parties to participate in the election process as stated in the Esquipulas II and Alajuela documents;

7. The Central American presidents have offered brotherly, democratic support for the Nicaraguan people and have solemnly promised that, working with the international community, they will establish objective criteria whereby they can judge—in good faith—the fulfillment of the agreements;

8. Through the document signed on 14 February 1989, the Nicaraguan Government pledged to develop a process of democratization and national reconciliation within the framework of the Esquipulas II agreements, through reforms of the electoral law and the law of freedom of expression. The electoral law reforms include the formation of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] with the equitable participation of opposition political party representatives, and the freedom of expression law reforms guarantee freedom of media operations by revising the media law and establishing equitable time frames and hours during broadcasting hours for all political parties on state radio and television stations;

9. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan Civic Opposition maintains the firm and irrevocable position that it is necessary to implement the constitutional reforms proposed in a series of documents by the opposition political parties, because these reforms are the only viable alternative for leading Nicaragua to the path of peace, justice, and democracy;

Resolve:

In timely response to the Nicaraguan Government's reiterated promises, we hereby present our proposed reforms of the electoral law for the government's approval and the international community's information, with the understanding they will be broadened and completed with the technical judgments and suggestions of the Costa Rican and Venezuelan election commissions, whose help has been requested by the Nicaraguan Government and the OCDN, which will present its election bill in due time.

Proposed reforms of the electoral law to guarantee a free, pluralistic, and honest process:

1. The CSE will be composed of five justices and their alternates, elected by the National Assembly from five lists the president of the Republic will send to that organization, two of which must be drawn up from lists presented by the political parties participating in the elections, except the government party, and one must be drawn up from lists presented by the National Reconciliation Commission. From this last list, the Assembly must designate the CSE's president. The CSE must maintain this egalitarian criteria when forming the regional, departmental, and municipal election councils and the voting table boards; the votes must bear the emblem of each participating party; each voting table board must register a maximum of 300 people at each table; the election of representatives to the National Assembly will be through departmental circumscription and be in proportion to each department's population.

2. The CSE and other election organizations will be formed after the electoral law is reformed.

3. The government will guarantee the citizens' registration or vote through the following steps: The national identity document or cedula will be established; indelible ink will be used for voting purposes; the voting table boards must send an authenticated copy of the vote count, along with a list of the people registered and those who voted, to each participating political party; the voting table boards, as a body, must report the election results after they are certified to each of the election attorneys [fiscales electorales]; the active presence of the election attorneys in the different phases of the election process must be guaranteed.

4. The government will guarantee the right of Nicaraguans who live out of the country to register and vote with the assistance of Nicaraguan consular services and the support of Central American consulates in extraregional countries with a large Nicaraguan population.

5. Military men in active service will not participate in politics, occupy posts in the election apparatus, or be candidates. They also cannot vote as long as the confusing state-Army-party situation remains. Any person with state responsibilities who uses public assets to induce, pressure, or please citizens to favor any given party during the voting period will be committing a punishable crime based on the electoral law.

6. The state will provide equal financial support to the political parties participating in the election process, and all laws and decrees impeding or restricting opposition organizations from freely receiving financial aid from public or private people abroad will be annulled. Once these reforms are implemented, all laws that directly or indirectly limit free elections will be annulled. Some such laws are those that prohibit polls, the provisional media law, the law on maintaining public order and security, the obligatory military service law, the confiscation laws, Decree 185 of 5 December 1979, the law that created the special courts and its reforms, and Decree 559 and its reforms.

8. [Number as heard] The government will immediately authorize the operation of a nongovernmental television channel, the opening of independent radio newscasts, and newspapers that will allow the people to know the position of all the political currents that exist in Nicaragua. The government will also guarantee proportional free use of state television, radio, and newspaper space.

9. In view of the historic importance of the forthcoming elections and because it has not been possible to carry out broad political negotiations in the country and clearly verify the election of the president or verify that his political program has majority support, the candidate who secures more than 50 percent of legally cast votes will be declared president-elect. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the votes, there will be runoff elections with the participation of the two candidates with the largest amount of votes.

10. The government must fully guarantee the people's right to protest civically and peacefully on the country's streets without repression from mobs, party members, or police. Those wanting to carry out this type of protest must not be prevented from doing so by administarative obstacles.

11. The government must permit the presence of foreign observers during the preelection political organizational period, during the election campaign, and after the elections to guarantee the purity of the results.

12. An election police corps that will permit impartial and nonpartisan supervision will be created. This corps will be under the authority of and will depend on the election authorities, who must have sufficient power to present and effectively process violations of the election order in an impartial and independent fashion and must have the authority to present appeals for revision and injunctions to the Supreme Court of Justice.

13. The Nicaraguan Government will guarantee free functioning of the media by reviewing and modifying the media law and will give equal time and hours to all political parties on the state's television and radio stations. The Nicaraguan Government will authorize the media to secure—domestically or on foreign markets, as they decide—all the materiel and equipment they may need to thoroughly fulfill their tasks.

14. The time interval between the election results and the presidential changeover to be agreed beforehand.

15. In accordance with the Esquipulas II agreements, the Alajuela declaration, and the El Salvador document to guarantee the free participation in the elections of all Nicaraguans, both inside and outside the country, the government should list the corresponding rules and issue

the corresponding decrees to guarantee that all Nicaraguans in exile may rejoin Nicaragua's political, economic, and social processes. The government is to guarantee that these Nicaraguans now in exile will not be persecuted, prosecuted, condemned, or threatened in any way for having opposed the current government politically or militarily.

16. The pertinent electoral law articles should be reformed to legally recognize all existing political parties. Members of the political council and their directors are to be elected by the political party assembly.

17. Those mentioned under Article 94 shall not be able to run as candidates unless they have resigned their posts 6 months prior to the election.

18. Election of mayors should be by direct popular vote and their term should be reduced to 4 years. Articles 18, 19, and 20 of the municipal law. [sentence as heard]

Concerning the second government reforms of the media laws, we shall send you our proposals in due course. This is to contribute toward the Nicaraguan authorities' undertaking contained in the Esquipulas II, Alajuela, and El Salvador documents for the benefit of democracy, peace, and progress of the Nicaraguan people. We also believe a general amnesty is an unavoidable obligation prior to the start of the political organization period established in the El Salvador agreements—in other words, prior to 25 April.

We also believe it is a good time to mention that because dialogue is the best civilized political instrument, and in keeping with an authentic national reconciliation, we propose our demands be known and resolved in a respectful meeting between the government and opposition with our Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo as moderator, in his role of president of the National Reconciliation Commission. His presence will represent for our people a guarantee, good faith, and the strict compliance of what was agreed upon.

Thanking you for your kind attention to this urgent proposal, we reiterate, Mr President, our respectful regards.

[Signed] Mario Rappaccioli, Nicaraguan Conservative Party

Jose Maria Morales, Nicaraguan Conservative Party

Guillermo Potoy, Social Democratic Party

Andres Zuniga, Liberal Party of Nicaragua

Jaime Cuadra, Constitutionalist Liberal Party

Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro, Social Christian Party

Agustin Jarquin Anaya, Social Christian Party

Virgilio Godoy Reyes, who joined the democratic opposition bloc at the last minute.

RN Letter to Costa Rican Minister on Amnesty

PA3103001389 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Letter from the Nicaraguan Resistance to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, issued on 28 March in Costa Rica]

[Text]

Your Excellency

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto

Mr Minister,

In the Esquipulas II agreement, signed in Guatemala on 7 August 1987, the Central American presidents committed themselves to issuing amnesty decrees without any exceptions.

In the Alajuela declaration signed on 16 January 1988, the Central American presidents agreed to fulfill the pending Esquipulas agreements immediately, unilaterally, and without any conditions.

In the document signed in La Paz Department, El Salvador, on 14 February 1989, the Nicaraguan Government stated that it had decided to release prisoners according to a prisoner classification system formulated by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

We must point out that that classification system, drafted in accordance with the Sapoa agreements, refers exclusively to the former Nicaraguan national guardsmen and not to all the people imprisoned by the Sandinist regime.

Their [not further identified] attempt to minimize the importance of the Esquipulas commitments is not a logical interpretation of the 14 February 1989 declaration. The logical thing to do is to fulfill the Sapoa agreements by releasing the former guardsmen—whose release has been pending for over 1 year—leaving unaffected the pending Esquipulas commitments. The Esquipulas commitment on amnesty does not only refer to the former national guardsmen; it establishes no restrictions, and therefore the amnesty commitment is applicable to all political prisoners.

Furthermore, attempting to fulfill its commitments, the Nicaraguan Government granted a pardon, not an amnesty, to a little less than 2,000 former national guardsmen, who had been imprisoned for almost 10 years. A pardon is granted to common criminals and does not have the same effect as amnesty, because a pardon imposes serious restrictions on the basic human rights of those pardoned.

In view of the aforementioned facts, all the other thousands of political prisoners who still remain in the Sandinist regime's jails respectfully request the Central American foreign minister to ask the Nicaraguan Government to immediately and completely fulfill its amnesty commitments.

We use this occasion to again convey to the Central American foreign ministers our highest esteem.
Costa Rica, 28 March 1989
For the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]:
Wilfredo Montalvan, RN director
Roberto Ferrey, RN director

Panama

FDP Protests Alleged U.S. Airspace Violation

PA3103145889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 31 Mar 89 pp 1, 26

[Text] The Panamanian members of the Combined Board formally protested yesterday over its U.S. counterpart's most recent violation of Panamanian airspace with three U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, which overflew the 11th Military Zone headquarters in San Miguelito in a threatening manner.

In a letter addressed to Lieutenant Colonel John T. Browne, co-chairman of the Combined Board, Lieutenant Colonel Aristides Hassan rejected this arbitrary action by the Southern Command and he said that such an action represents an open threat to the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] military installation.

"Enough of this ridicule, irony, arrogance, and disrespect for the Torrijos-Carter treaties," Lt Col Hassan stressed. The high-ranking Panamanian officer also pointed out that "these incidents demonstrate your desire to frighten us with provocative maneuvers against the civilian population."

On several occasions, heavily armed U.S. gunships have overflown Panamanian military installations at low altitudes for no apparent reason. In response to Panama's protests, the U.S. Army has responded by saying only that these were "training flights."

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, FDP commander in chief, has decided that Panama will not respond to U.S. provocations for the security of future generations, an attitude that has kept the gringos' actions from ending in regrettable incidents.

The FDP will continue to ensure compliance with the canal treaties to guarantee total sovereignty in the year 2000. "The next generation will receive our biggest achievement: a people free of imperialist shackles," Lt Col Hassan said.

Opposition Candidates Reportedly 'Detained'

PA3003192289 Panama City La Voz de Panama in Spanish 1845 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Statement by Christian Democratic Party legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox in Panama City—live]

[Text] I think all of you have heard that the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance presidential and vice presidential candidates were on their way to Colon this morning when they were detained—the presidential and vice presidential candidates were detained—at Madden checkpoint near Chilibre. They were detained because they were in a car caravan. What does this tell you? Who is afraid? Who is panicky because of the elections? These are signs of weakness. They are afraid of the landslide of votes that will be cast against them.

Authorities Release Newsman Alfredo Jimenez

PA3103000189 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2320 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Panamanian newsman Alfredo Jimenez has been released after paying $20,000 for bail. After his release this afternoon, Panamanian newsman Alfredo Wilfi Jimenez rejected the charges filed against him, which were the cause of his arrest. Let us listen to Jimenez' statements:

[Begin Jimenez recording] They put me in a sort of dungeon, which they call a preventive arrest cell. It is in fact a basement, where they also place common criminals. I, however, had some luck. One of the prisoners there had been a LA PRENSA newspaper vendor. He recognized and protected me. I stayed in that cell or basement for 2 days.

After those 2 days, I was transferred to a ward located on the top floor. That ward is called the 3d Ward, which is where they place drug traffickers and murderers. I was sharing cell number seven with four other prisoners. I was never mistreated either by the other prisoners or by the wardens.

I conducted a small amount of journalistic activities while being held prisoner. I talked to the prisoners who approached me after they found out that I was a newsman. I talked to them about the reasons why they were there. I would say that about 90 percent of the prisoners there are awaiting further word from judicial authorities. In other words, their cases are up in the air.

In addition, some prisoners told me that ever since the Human Rights Commission members visited the jail, they have been better treated, abuses are not as common, the jail is much cleaner, and the food and health services are better. Prisoners, however, still have many needs. [end recording]

Congressman's Letter Implies U.S. Recognition
PA3003165389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 pp 1, 18

["Congress Recognizes Solis Palma"]

[Text] A letter to Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, from U.S. Representative Joseph P. Kennedy of Massachusetts clearly implies that Kennedy acknowledges Solis Palma as Panama's president.

In requesting the opinion of Panama's constitutional president regarding ways to ease the internal debt crisis the developing countries are facing, Representative Kennedy addressed Manuel Solis Palma as president; sent the letter to the president's official residence, the Palace of the Herons; and opened his letter in a friendly tone with the words: "Dear Mr President."

The text of Kennedy's letter is as follows:

[On page 1, CRITICA publishes a photostat copy of the letter in English through the first sentence. On page 18, the entire letter is provided in Spanish.]
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
President
Manuel Solis (P)Alma [English version is addressed to "Manuel Solis Alma"]
Palace of the Herons
Republic of Panama

Dear Mr President:

It is growing increasingly clear that the leading issue the countries of our hemisphere must face during the 1990's is the tremendous threat of debt to commercial banks, which is slowing development and threatening democracy in Latin America.

As you know, my family has been involved in U.S. relations with Latin America for many years. Our broad, historical interest in Latin American affairs led me to become a member of the House of Representatives committee that deals with developing countries' debt when I was first elected to Congress.

At the beginning of February, I met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, an old friend from the days when oil negotiations frequently took me to Caracas. Perez told me about the measures he was trying to implement and expressed concern over the people's reaction. It is a certain fact that economic reforms cannot be expected to generate popular support if similar actions are not carried out by the commercial banks and lending nations to ensure a significant easing of the debt.

During my conversation with President Perez, I became aware that he would be working closely with you and the leaders of the other nations that make up the Group of Eight. Any comprehensive approach regarding debt reduction will require coordination among your governments, the commercial banks, the U.S. Congress, and the Bush administration. I wish to offer you my help in coordinating your efforts to achieve an equitable and balanced debt reduction.

There are many varying points of view regarding how to manage the debt crisis. I have favored the creation of a Debt Administration, an institution that would take advantage of large debt discounts on the secondary market and, more importantly, transfer those discounts to the debtor nations as a means of easing the debt. This institution could be established as an affiliate of a multinational lending agency, and its purpose would be to encourage credits, increase the value of the existing debt, and reduce the debt's volume.

If you find these ideas constructive, and if you believe my services as a mediator with officials in Washington can be useful, it is my hope we will be able to establish a working relationship.

Thank you very much for your consideration and attention.
Sincerely,
Joseph P. Kennedy II
Member of Congress

Delvalle Denies Improper Use of Frozen Funds
PA3103001189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2315 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Mar (DPA)—Ousted President Eric Arturo Delvalle has described statements by Attorney General Carlos Villalaz regarding Delvalle's alleged improper use of Panamanian funds that are frozen in the United States as "infamous charges."

A note from Delvalle was read today on a radio program sponsored by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance. The note said the money obtained from taxes withheld by U.S. firms and government agencies operating in Panama and not turned over to the Manuel Solis Palma government has not been used by Delvalle or by his associates.

Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin recently said U.S. firms, following U.S. presidential orders, are withholding taxes of more than $175 million.

According to Delvalle, these funds have been deposited and are earning interest in Federal Reserve Bank accounts, under the supervision of the U.S. Treasury Department.

Attorney General Carlos Villalaz has asked Interpol to arrest Delvalle, who has been in hiding since 26 February 1988, so Delvalle can be questioned about the $175 million in withheld taxes and the $65 million that belong to the Panama National Bank and that also remain frozen in U.S. banks.

COLINA's Duque on ADOC Views on FDP

PA3003174489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 pp 1, C-10

[Text] Carlos Duque Jaen, National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] presidential candidate, yesterday strongly protested the attempts by some opposition groups that wish to end the essentially developmental nature of the FDP. Duque made this statement in response to a question asked by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA regarding the communique issued by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] on the role the FDP should play.

The COLINA presidential candidate said he knows that the "real reason behind this ADOC maneuver is to strangle the high nationalist spirit that prevails today in the minds and hearts of the members of the country's only armed institution."

Duque Jaen made these exclusive statements for LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA last night. He added that "asking at this time for a revision of Law 20 is a useless attempt to weaken the structures of the FDP, which is today monolithically united and involved in fulfilling its duty to the people and the community and in protecting the dearest interests of the Panamanian nation."

Duque, who is also president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, also stressed that part of the plan against the men in uniform is clearly aimed at controlling the Armed Forces, which in the future would allow the opposition to continue its plans to sell out the country and allow the presence, in perpetuity, of U.S. troops in our country.

"Our plan continues to be essentially nationalist. This is why today, more than ever, we need the support of an FDP like the one we have, determined to continue struggling without giving up, and until our violated sovereignty has been fully rescued," Carlos Duque added.

Duque asked himself: What does the opposition really want? He added that under the present circumstances there can be no reduction in the number of troops, abolishing of military echelons, removal of officers, and much less a change in the FDP's important structures.

In conclusion, Carlos Duque condemned what he described as "devious maneuvers of the opposition, which is carrying out an election campaign that promotes hate." Duque called on everyone to ensure that the people's respect is not lost.

Editorial Issues Warning on COLINA Rally

PA3003231489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p A-4

[Editorial: "An Inopportune Political Act"]

[Text] We are sure that when violence first erupted in June 1987 as a result of unfortunate statements by a former high-ranking Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officer, no Panamanian imagined then the grave social, moral, political, and economic damage that the nation would have to endure. As the popular saying goes: "We know how things begin, but we never know how they will end." This is why we are concerned about the political activity scheduled to take place tomorrow, Friday, along Panama City's Argentina Avenue. It has been announced that supporters of the political groups that comprise the COLINA will take over a sector of that avenue tomorrow to carry out a nationalist rally to promote that coalition's presidential and legislative candidates.

On several occasions we have urged the three sectors' political leaders contending in the 7 May elections to be honest, to not incite violence, and to behave with common sense and intelligence. We perfectly understand the freedom that all Panamanians have to meet and to move around freely throughout the territory and on all public roads. However, it should also be understood that Argentina Avenue is a residential neighborhood inhabited by members of the middle and upper classes, who have not hidden their ironclad opposition to the national government. On many occasions that avenue has served as a bastion for the struggle and political gatherings of those groups. In this regard, it is extremely counterproductive for political sectors supporting the national government to publicly attempt to take over that avenue at a time when political passions are running high.

This move can clearly be interpreted as an act of provocation that flies in the face of efforts to attain peaceful coexistence, which should mark the campaign activities surrounding the May presidential and legislative elections. The Panamanian people and the political leaders of the three groups involved in the power struggle are aware that the future elections are of unprecedented historic importance. Under these conditions, it is imperative that everyone behave with decency, honesty, and beyond reproach during the election process. Such activities as the one announced for tomorrow do not help at all in maintaining peace. The capital has many parks and avenues where government and opposition sympathizers can hold their demonstrations.

Any political faction's taking over avenues, such as the action planned specifically for tomorrow on Argentina Avenue, unquestionably could incite violence with unforeseeable consequences. No one can guarantee that avenue residents would not take actions that could result in something unpleasant. Let us avoid any action that could incite violence. The elections should be the most expeditious path to democracy, national peace, and economic recovery. This can be achieved through elections characterized by mutual respect, a civic attitude, and complete freedom.

Paper Berates PALA Criticism of PRD

PA3103022389 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 4

["Political Arena" column by Baltazar Renan Aizpurua: "Do They Want Talks?"]

[Text] I am writing this in my dual capacity as a newsman who is committed to the struggle for national liberation and as supervisor of the Honor and Discipline

Commission of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], the majority party in COLINA. It is my duty as a journalist and political analyst to instruct the public and, as an officer of the party founded by Torrijos, to monitor not only compliance with the PRD's bylaws, platform, and principles within the party, but to ensure compliance among its allies and by organizations the PRD deals with.

For some time we have been seeing how a newspaper that is the mouthpiece for the so-called Labor Party [PALA] has devoted its best efforts toward attacking leading PRD figures. No one has taken action to stop this, and therefore that newspaper believes that it can go on publishing its vindictive reports with impunity. At first, I accused MEDIODIA's director of being responsible for the newspaper's divisive editorial policy. However, in the name of truth, I want to publicly acknowledge today that Guillermo Rodolfo Valdes is not the one who is having a field day with this practice. It is the newspaper's principal owners, such as Ramon Sieiro, vice presidential candidate and PALA secretary general, and Juan Medrano, PALA president, who are supplying the ammunition with which to attack the PRD.

The victims of these attacks have been—to name just a few—PRD Secretary General Darisnel Espino, PRD Vice President Carlos Ozores, and cabinet ministers Gustavo Gonzalez, Jorge Eduardo Ritter, Rolando Murgas, Francisco Sanchez, Orville Goodin, etc. In addition, the PALA newspaper has become a platform for alleged union leaders who have conspired to disrupt national stability and for seditious people who hurl unproved charges against state institutions.

General Manuel Antonio Noriega said at a Torrijos Foundation dinner at the Marriott Hotel on 17 January that "the parties must know that they are tools of a national, not a personal, agenda; that they are vehicles for a popular and social solution, and not autonomous patrols that could compromise the nation's strategy for unity and development." All evidence suggests that PALA's leaders disregard these statements by top military and political leaders working for the cause of liberation because they are, in fact, working like autonomous patrols, undermining the strategy for unity.

If not, what do the attacks on Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin and the racist cartoon published by the newspaper 2 days ago represent, except attacks against the government's credibility and attempts to discredit the strategy that has been devised to counter the Yankee economic aggression? The fact is that PALA's members bare their souls through MEDIODIA and protest the security measures at Remon Racetrack—whose manager is one of the advocates of the "gentle change" [PALA campaign slogan]—and at the National Casinos, which is headed by a member of "the dialogue" [PALA campaign slogan]. Why the attacks against one of the most honest men of the revolutionary process, who has been described as the "black beast" by the "establishment," and who has thwarted every attempt at destabilizing and overthrowing Gen Noriega and at doing away with the Torrijist process? Why do they attack Goodin and not the gringos?

These questions should be answered, because we should keep the public informed. It so happens that Minister Goodin's management of public finances follows a very different set of criteria from that used during the traitor Delvalle's administration. Although last year the Panamanian Treasury did not receive approximately 400 million balboas as a direct result of the Yankee aggression, the Panamanian Government survived. Thus far in 1989, tax revenues have increased as a direct result of the most recent measures adopted by the Finance and Treasury Ministry, which, among other things, ordered all taxpayers to present tax clearance certificates for most transactions. The 13th-month bonus promissory notes, which were originally payable in 1991, are already being paid and will be fully paid before December 1989.

Because of scarce resources, the use of funds is currently very strict. Finance and Treasury Minister Goodin and Comptroller General Francisco Rodriguez are strictly controlling the use of funds. The Remon Race Track and the National Casinos are not exempt from these measures. The authorities must be careful that they are not robbed. I publicly congratulate the two government officials.

For the time being, I do not want to speak about abortion clinics or embezzlement in foreign shipping companies. I also do not wish to comment on some leaders' attitudes during the crisis, when they decided to send their families abroad for their safety. I do not want to believe that there is a secret understanding between people who are now COLINA members and "non grato" [U.S. Ambassador Arthur] Davis. We will leave those topics for another time if you want "more dialogue."

PALA's Sieiro Reacts

PA3103144689 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Ramon Sieiro, secretary general of PALA and COLINA first vice presidential candidate, rejected this afternoon the article written by a PRD member against the PALA that was published today in CRITICA.

[Begin Sieiro recording] I think this proves once again that there is a great difference between the PRD and the PALA. The PRD is... [changes thought] That is what a group within the party is trying to tell us through this journalist.

The PALA is a party that continues to grow and continues to win the Panamanian people's hearts. We are convinced that changes must be made in this country; that is why we support changes. Meanwhile, this journalist and this group within the PRD do not believe in changes. Maybe they think they will be able to maintain the hegemony they have had for the last 20 years.

We will struggle so Mr Carlos Duque will win the Presidency, and we will support—within the Presidency and the Executive Branch—the changes that this country needs. We also renew our appeal for a dialogue and a chat, as the PALA slogan says. It seems that people like him and others within that PRD group do not like to chat, but this chat and exchange of views with the Panamanian people should lead to national reconciliation.

We believe in national reconciliation, but apparently he and the others do not want to talk about reconciliation. Therefore, there is a great difference between what he represents—the PRD—and the PALA. Once again, we ask Panamanians to understand this because it is clearly stated in that column. [end recording]

PCC Board Member Concerned Over Maintenance
PA3003211689 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Mar 89 p 12

[Article by Jaime Enrique Beitia]

[Text] According to Carlos Ozores Typaldos, one of the Panamanian members of the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, Panamanians must try to prevent the canal from being reverted with defects similar to those of the reverted ports and railroad. He made these statements despite the improvements that have been made to the canal.

Ozores said that even though there has been some investment in the canal since the Torrijos-Carter treaties went into effect (October 1979), many more investments should be made.

Ozores said that new equipment has been purchased and the locks have received maintenance. However, he insisted, the Panamanian members of the PCC Board of Directors insist that more funds should be set aside for maintenance and equipment repair.

He added that if the Torrijos-Carter treaties are honored to the letter, work could begin on widening the Culebra Cut without having to rely on special funds, which would have to be approved by the U.S. Congress. The work on the Culebra Cut is necessary to increase the canal's vessel capacity.

Ozores said that the ecological and financial studies for this project have been completed, adding that no decision has been made to undertake this project of major importance.

He added that the studies were completed thanks to the Panamanian board members' insistence. They believe that the project could be paid for with money from the canal that is currently being expended in other ways.

Argentina

Caputo Defends Government Policy on Falklands

PY3003163689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Mar (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today emphatically defended his government's policies in the face of the efforts being made by the "Indiana I" to establish a regular maritime transport service between the Malvinas Islands and the Latin American subcontinent.

This is how the Foreign Ministry answered an article in today's AMBITO FINANCIERO entitled "New Failure of the Foreign Minister in Front of Great Britain." The daily said that news from Santiago, Chile, confirms that a ship left Punta Arenas for the Malvinas Islands, and that this represents a "British victory."

Caputo has admitted that Argentine-Chilean relations "do not work as they should" but he refrained from elaborating "out of courtesy."

Caputo was interviewed by Radio Continental. He said that the ship's contact with Punta Arenas "has been reduced" but he did not give any details.

Caputo also said that "every time we inflict a diplomatic defeat on the British Government, AMBITO FINANCIERO does not say a word."

Caputo talked about the Argentine "victories" when the Brazilian Government three times refused the captain of the "Indiana I" ship permission to take on supplies in Rio de Janeiro or to anchor in any Brazilian port.

Caputo went on to say that a Brazilian patrol boat then escorted the "Indiana I" ship from Brazilian waters.

The British ship recently ran into problems when it wanted to dock in Montevideo, and this is why it went to Chile.

Caputo added that this failure "really irritated the British Government."

Central Bank President Discusses Dollar Hike

PY3003222289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Finance Minister Sourrouille, Central Bank President Machinea, and U.S. Ambassador Gildred met with President Alfonsin for over an hour today at Government House. Due to the meeting of such high-ranking economic experts, and the U.S. ambassador, speculation was high that new economic measures or new ideas for foreign debt negotiations would be implemented. These measures, had they been carried out, would even further undermine our economic situation.

These expectations however, proved to be false; the three officials were in government house with the chairman of the New York Federal Reserve, who is visiting Argentina and met with Alfonsin.

Nevertheless, we held an interesting interview with Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, particularly on the impact that the hike in the dollar rate has had on our economy.

Machinea said that the government does not intend to change the currency exchange rules. We asked him whether the government will adopt new measures to curb inflation and stop the dollar rate from climbing.

We must also add that Machinea ruled out the possibility of freezing dollar deposits and of declaring a banking and exchange holiday next Monday, as some rumors stated this morning. He categorically denied that a banking holiday would be declared to stop the dollar exchange rate from climbing, but he admitted that a harsher exchange policy will be implemented.

[Begin Machinea recording] We do not intend to change any rules in the exchange market, and the only mechanisms which are creating this great state of uncertainness [passage indistinct] within the economic policy, are monetary policy instruments.

Therefore (?I think) that in the next few days (?we will see) that the economic policy will play a more active role in restricting the dollar rate hike. As I said, this dollar rate increase does not follow any rule, and in a few months or weeks, or I do not know when, it will pop [se va a pinchar]. [passage indistinct] through the monetary policy which is one of the instruments that remain to be used when uncertainty reaches the levels it has unfortunately reached now. [end recording]

The Central Bank president said that the situation we are living through now is unusual because we have not had this level of stability before an election for 60 years. This is the only explanation the economic team has for the current behavior of the exchange market, he said, adding that the current dollar price is completely unreal.

Machinea also said that criticisms made by different political sectors are acceptable as long as they are criticisms, but he condemned the rumors circulating in the market which allowed speculators to destabilize it.

* Jaunarena on Measures Against Terrorism

33480132c Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 22 Feb 89 pp 10-12

[Interview with Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena; date and place not given]

[Text] [SOMOS] What are the elements of an effective policy to combat terrorism?

[Jaunarena] At this juncture it is clear that to combat the phenomenon of subversive terrorism political solutions are not enough.

[SOMOS] What does that mean, more precisely?

[Jaunarena] I mean that at some point it was thought that the existence of civil liberties and the rule of law made the return of subversive terrorism impossible, and this is not so. When they are lacking, there is certainly a better breeding ground for it, but this alone is not enough.

[SOMOS] Could the government have believed that?

[Jaunarena] This idea was quite widespread, not just in Argentina but elsewhere in the world as well. It is not a question of attributing it to a political party or to a segment of it exclusively.

[SOMOS] So do we have to resort to an armed or military response to terrorism?

[Jaunarena] It is not correct either to think that the phenomenon of subversive terrorism can be addressed with an exclusively armed response. Success in the battle requires as starting points a strong political response from society as a whole and an appropriate mechanism for cracking down that must operate under and with the backing of suitable legislation.

[SOMOS] How can these two elements, a political consensus and a crackdown, be reconciled, given our more or less recent history?

[Jaunarena] The challenge facing Argentine society today is precisely to demonstrate that democracy is in a position to deliver an effective and appropriate response to the subversive terrorism that has reappeared.

[SOMOS] Bearing in mind the current troubles in relations with the PJ [Justicialist Party], has thought been given to enacting regulations for the struggle against terrorism by decree?

[Jaunarena] Yes, but it is better to use a law because, as I said, one of the requirements for an effective struggle is a strong consensus response from the great majority of society. Consequently, a law passed by congress would better express this consensus. It is clear, moreover, that the armed forces and security forces prefer to operate with the backing of a law passed by the Congress of the nation. Eradicating subversive terrorism is not just the responsibility of the government or of armed organizations. It is a responsibility that must be taken up by society as a whole.

[SOMOS] Has a decision already been made to replace the domestic security bill with a more specific antisubversive bill?

[Jaunarena] We are moving forward on a antisubversive bill that could be more effective than a domestic security bill, precisely because it is more specific.

[SOMOS] Do you think that the political conditions are right for such a bill to be passed more or less quickly by Congress?

[Jaunarena] I think so. Moreover, it must be. When society perceives that the law is ineffective in combating a phenomenon, there is a temptation to resort to unlawful behavior, illegal shortcuts. We Argentines have vast experience in this regard. So those who are remiss in addressing the issue ought to be aware of the risks involved in such an approach.

[SOMOS] What would an antisubversive law look like?

[Jaunarena] In my judgment, in general, it ought to cover three major areas. The first is legal, the description of the crimes, the rules of procedure for trying the criminals and the investigative powers of the judges, etc. The second has to do with intelligence matters, how to do it, who should do it and who is ultimately in control. The third has to do with specific operational matters, in other words, the use of the forces that the government has at its disposal. Everything that I'm saying does not imply that we lack all such regulations. What I'm saying is that they must be revised, changed or improved, if necessary, and that a law like the one I'm talking about is a good way to achieve this end.

[SOMOS] Have you already considered such a bill with the chiefs of staff?

[Jaunarena] We have analyzed the issue a great deal, and we are clear on the principles that must underlie the different areas that such legislation must encompass.

[SOMOS] How do you view the activities of antisubversive intelligence?

[Jaunarena] The set of intelligence tools that the state possesses must develop the necessary knowledge to deliver an effective and appropriate response. I think that it is more important to define in what areas intelligence will be conducted than to determine what intelligence agencies will conduct it. This does not at all mean that the way is paved for intelligence activities to burst in at their discretion on the political, social or cultural activities that are properly those of a democratic, pluralistic society.

[SOMOS] Once investigations have been authorized and launched, isn't it hard to put limits on them?

[Jaunarena] If you are driving a car without brakes at 160 km an hour, you'll probably cause an accident. This does not mean that driving cars should be banned. What you have to do is design mechanisms that reduce the risk of accidents and allow cars to be driven. The problem that you mention must be taken into account, but a

modern state cannot do without intelligence; in fact, nowhere in the world is this the case. In any event, an effective system must be made compatible with appropriate respect for individual rights. But this is possible within a democratic state, and there are a huge number of examples of this.

[SOMOS] Who controls intelligence activities in your model?

[Jaunarena] The supervision phase is extremely important. The decision-making monopoly in this area belongs to the executive branch. Some form of legislative control could be considered if it does not hinder the execution of the mission and, at the same time, if it is a safeguard against the danger of potential slipups.

[SOMOS] Where would the production of intelligence be centralized?

[Jaunarena] In the National Intelligence Center.

[SOMOS] With its current structure? Isn't there mistrust among its members that could cripple their work?

[Jaunarena] The structure is not bad. Perhaps we have to think about beefing it up with additional trained personnel. Mistrust is typical of intelligence communities all over the world, but this is not an insurmountable obstacle. It is within the ability of the men in charge to reverse this trend so that everyone contributes to the good of the whole. This issue is especially touchy during political transitions of the sort that we are experiencing right now.

[SOMOS] Are there more dangers in an excess or lack of intelligence?

[Jaunarena] There are risks in both cases. What we must realize is that appropriate intelligence makes a crackdown less bloody, to the extent that it anticipates events and ascertains responsibilities. Intelligence is to the military what eyes are to a human being. Giving society a military without an intelligence capability is like blindfolding a boxer and sending him out to fight. He'll surely throw a punch at the referee and some of the spectators. I know that there are fears about the excesses that could be committed by intelligence, but we are trying to prevent them, not abolish intelligence.

[SOMOS] What specific form would the crackdown take?

[Jaunarena] First I must point out that an armed response to terrorist aggression always has to be guided by the political authority. As for the operational issue, I prefer to speak of flexibility of response. It seems to me that this term reflects the realities better than so-called gradualism, although the two are not, of course, contradictory or exclusive.

[SOMOS] What does "flexibility of response" mean?

[Jaunarena] Tailoring the response to the specific aggression at each moment and in each place. For example, if a small group is engaging in armed agitation and propaganda on a streetcorner, it seems sensible to send in the police. If, on the other hand, a military barracks is attacked, units of the force under attack will go into action. Lastly, if rural guerrilla fronts were to open, hypothetically, for example, it would be absurd not to use the security forces and the armed forces and instead hope to implement a gradualist model over time. In short, aggression must be responded to quickly, effectively and with the tool that is best suited to the characteristics of the attack under way.

All of this must be decided by the president of the nation. In another vein, we must not lose sight of the fact that our armed forces are primarily designed and have as their main mission to protect our territory against aggression by another power in a, shall we say, conventional war. This fact must always be kept in mind, because there is nothing about our current situation that counsels a change in this their primary mission.

[SOMOS] What would the most likely errors be in designing the battle against terrorism?

[Jaunarena] One of the mistakes that could be committed this time is to repeat courses of conduct or stands that were taken during the subversive episode that the country lived through in the past, without realizing that we are in a different historical context, a different international situation and with a society that is also completely different.

Two mistakes can be made with history. One is to think that it inexorably repeats itself, in which case we sort of become its slaves. The other is to disregard its lessons. History will not repeat itself because we have all learned from our mistakes. Harping exclusively on the mistakes of others without acknowledging one's own is the sort of pride that characterizes fools.

[SOMOS] The conclusion?

[Jaunarena] Exclusively political responses are not enough; exclusively repressive responses are not enough. Society must combat subversive terrorism with all of its forces while preserving the democratic norms that guarantee individual freedoms and the rule of law. Under no circumstances is it necessary to militarize society to combat the phenomenon. In any event, this would be one of terrorism's objectives so that it could do battle on more favorable terrain. They are not going to succeed. It is very clear what Argentines want. The crackdown at La Tablada was undertaken with all of the necessary force in one hand and with all of the law and legitimacy in the other.

[SOMOS] What is your assessment of La Tablada?

[Jaunarena] Subversive terrorism suffered two crushing defeats there. One was on the military plane, because it achieved none of its objectives. Another was on the political plane, because it was condemned by the overwhelming majority of society.

[SOMOS] Should we expect further terrorist attacks, even if they are smaller in scale?

[Jaunarena] These elements will likely try to recreate a scenario in which, to regain some sort of a consensus, they would try to make people think that the armed forces or the government acted outside the law in the immediate crackdown. This is false. A judge is involved, and he was at the scene of the events when shots were still being heard. I know this because when we went with the president, shooting was still going on and the judge was already there.

[SOMOS] So how what will happen?

[Jaunarena] Politically, the objective will be to create a climate of mistrust, to turn the victimizers into victims. What they would most like to achieve politically is to push the crackdown outside the law. But we are going to be as firm in the crackdown as we are respectful of the law.

[SOMOS] Don't you think that if there are individual terrorist attacks on members of the armed or security forces, there is a very high probability of "autonomous responses," a euphemism that some use to refer to reprisals outside any organizational or legal control, obviously.

[Jaunarena] This is a danger. That was what the Triple A was during the last decade, and it would be the most sought after objective of the subversive criminals, because that way they could secure some sort of backing stemming from fear or the discrediting of a crackdown like one you are talking about. But this is not going to happen under a Radical government.

* Military Role in Antiterrorist Activity

* New Security Agencies

33480132b Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Executive Branch is considering whether to enact laws creating new security agencies in which the armed forces will be involved and which will act to prevent and neutralize attacks on internal security.

The initiative was announced yesterday by the nation's vice president, Victor Martinez. He argued that the bills, which would be taken up in special sessions of Congress, or the corresponding decrees are valid under the provisions of Article 4 of the national defense law. This article authorizes a law that would take effect in the event of domestic attacks on public security, and "of course the armed forces have to be involved" in such a law, the vice president said.

He also downplayed the significance of the attack last weekend on the El Plumerillo Air Force base. He felt that one could gather that there was "an excess of zeal in the crackdown by the guardians of unity," who were probably "hypersensitized" after what happened at La Tablada.

The president of the Senate made these remarks yesterday at the Government Palace at the close of his customary weekly meeting with Dr Alfonsin, at which, in another vein, he examined the new economic measures that will take effect on Monday. He felt that they were designed "to try to reconcile progress in containing inflation, promotion of exports and discouraging speculation."

He added that these measures are not a tacit recognition of the failure of the Spring Plan, but merely "one of the adjustments" being made to it, bearing in mind that the plan to combat inflation was never "an absolutely definite thing."

Overly Zealous in Crackdown

When asked about the shootout last weekend between the guards at the El Plumerillo air base and the unidentified individuals who attacked it, Dr Martinez clarified that in the official view, "we feel that here there was an excess of zeal in the crackdown by the guardians of unity."

He went on to say that he felt that "the shooting (at the Mendoza air base) was more intense from the unit's guards than from the assailants." He thus called on people "to understand that we are all hypersensitized under the current circumstances," and therefore, he felt, what happened there was "some shooting that was reacted to with some vehemence."

He acknowledged afterwards, however, that in spite of the precautions that the government is taking, "we are not free and clear of attempts at disruption."

The Economic Measures

On this issue the president of the upper house felt that "there is no reason why" the new provisions "should affect the cost of living or heighten the inflation indices."

The steps taken by the government's economic section "are designed to discourage speculation with foreign exchange," asserted Martinez, who underscored that in implementing these latest moves the government is pushing the idea of "reconciling precisely progress in containing inflation, promotion of exports and discouraging speculation."

Moreover, he denied that this is a acknowledgment that the Spring Plan has failed, describing the latest measures as "one of the timely adjustments" to a plan that at the outset never sought "to be an absolutely definite thing."

When asked whether the government feels it has the support of the groups that represent the industrial and commercial activities that backed the Spring Plan when it was launched, Martinez replied that "although there could be criticism of its overall aspects, we feel that, yes, we will" have the same support and that there is no reason why "what was agreed upon by a consensus, especially as regards prices, should not be complied with."

In conclusion, the Senate president justified the lack of consultation with business organizations before enacting the new economic measures as stemming from the need to act in accordance with "elementary rules of prudence," which demand that such measures be taken with great prudence" lest they cause "a tremendous outburst of speculation," which would have happened if such precautions had not been observed.

He added that "on the contrary, we have received applause for our success" in implementing provisions of this scope with "the knowledge of very few." His talk with newsmen concluded at this point.

* New Antisubversive Law

33480132b Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Feb 89 p 6

[Text] Defense Minister Jose Horacio Jaunarena has revealed that the administration is moving ahead in its study of "an antisubversive bill that could be more effective than a domestic security law, precisely because it is more specific." He added that it would seek the consensus of Congress in passing it because "this is a responsibility that ought to be taken up by society as a whole."

"The challenge facing Argentine society today is precisely to demonstrate that democracy is in a position to deliver an effective and appropriate response to the subversive terrorism that has reappeared," Jaunarena said in statements to the magazine SOMOS.

He also commented that "it is clear, moreover, that the armed forces and security forces prefer to act with the backing of a law passed by the Congress of the nation."

He felt that such a bill would be passed quickly by Congress, and "it must be."

According to Jaunarena, the new law should cover three main areas. The first is legal, the description of the crimes, the rules of procedure for trying the criminals and the investigative powers of the judges, etc.

The second has to do with intelligence matters, "how to do it, who should do it and who is ultimately in control." The third has to do with specific operational matters, in other words, the use of the forces that the government has at its disposal.

Decisionmaking Monopoly

The Executive Branch must have a monopoly on decisionmaking, but "some form of legislative control" could be considered "if it does not hinder the execution of the mission and, at the same time, if it is a safeguard against the danger of potential slipups."

As for the possibility of further terrorist attacks, he said that it is likely that "these elements will try to recreate a scenario in which, to regain some sort of a consensus, they would try to make people think that the armed forces or the government acted outside the law in the immediate crackdown."

"This is false. A judge is involved, and he was at the scene of the events when shots were still being heard," he said in an allusion to the La Tablada incident. "I know this because when we went with the president, shooting was still going on and the judge was already there." (NA)

'Strategic Reserve' in the Event of an Internal Attack

The defense-policy section of Justicialist Party's draft campaign platform proposes that the armed forces become a deterrent power in the event of an outside attack and serve as a "strategic reserve" at the disposal of the constitutional authorities "to contain and quell those internal aggressions which because of their gravity outstrip the police and security forces."

The draft does not mention the period of obligatory military service because the members of the commission that wrote it up feel that this is an issue for open debate.

The defense committee of Justicialism was in charge of drafting the section, which the NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS agency has seen, and took 6 months to do so. The commission is made up of vice presidential candidate Eduardo Duhalde, Senator Liliana Gurdulich de Correa, Deputies Miguel Angel Toma and Luis Aranda, Col Simon Arguello, retired, notary Hernan Patino Mayer and Carlos Canon.

Preamble

The preamble contends that the armed forces have not "had a decent and socially appreciated role to play since the restoration of democracy, and the devotion to service that inspires them has neither been acknowledged nor fostered by those who ought to be exercising their political leadership."

It underscores that such "spiritual and professional discouragement has gravely damaged institutional cohesion, turning [military] service into a bureaucratic routine that breaks down discipline and gravely weakens combat readiness."

Further on it states that "the reconciliation of Argentine society, an indispensable presupposition for national unity, cannot exclude the military family," inasmuch as "we cannot conceive of a nation whose armed forces are kept out of the common agenda that the will of the people designs."

The specific points note that "the ongoing mission of the armed forces is to train and be ready to act as members of the deterrent power of the nation in the exercise of its sovereignty by satisfactorily resolving external conflicts and aggressions."

It says that "as a strategic reserve they are also part of the state security system that is at the disposal of the constitutional authorities to contain and quell those internal aggressions which because of their gravity outstrip the police and security forces."

Military Intelligence

It asserts that military intelligence "by fulfilling its specific mission, will have to be part of the National Intelligence System, which under the political leadership of the constitutional authorities develops the nation's strategic internal and external intelligence."

"This system will have to have congressional oversight to insure that it is used to further the interests of the state, without infringing on the rights and guarantees of the democratically organized community."

Rejection of Unilateral Disarmament

Justicialism also expresses its support for "the fervent desire of peoples to achieve steady world disarmament, but we reject 'the unilateral disarmament' of the peoples of Latin America because far from contributing to this goal, it only worsens the strategic imbalance by dangerously diminishing our deterrent capability."

It also proclaims the "definitive integration of the armed forces with the people from whom they are drawn and to whom they owe their existence." Therefore, "the armed forces must in their training gain an in-depth knowledge of the great national objectives and identify with them."

After recalling "the bitter experience of the Malvinas struggle because of the inadequate development of our military industry and excessive technological dependency," it proclaims "the legitimate need for a military industry that will strengthen national autonomy, promote the development of modern technologies, become part of the productive revolution to overcome stagnation and decline, and pursue a suitable policy of military exports."

Dr Dromi's Functions

Separately, it was learned that administrative law attorney Jose Roberto Dromi would be one of the main "links" between Carlos Menem and the armed forces if Justicialism prevails in the 14 May elections, party sources asserted.

Dromi, a close colleague and friend of Senator Eduardo Menem, will discharge functions "outside politics proper" and will limit himself to "connecting" the La Rioja governor with the different divisions of the armed forces, the sources noted.

* Unemployment Figures Released

33480132d Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 5

[Text] Unemployment and underemployment remain at the record highs they reached a year ago, together affecting 14 percent of the economically active population.

INDEC [National Institute of Statistics and Census] yesterday released the findings of the survey of homes that it regularly conducts in April and October of each year; in this instance the results are for October 1988. Unemployment then stood at 6.1 percent, a record high for the second survey of the year, although this level has been topped several times in April. Underemployment was at 7.9 percent, 0.2 percent below the October 1987 level.

Unemployment in Greater Buenos Aires was 5.7 percent, lower than in the immediately preceding survey in May, when it stood at 6.3 percent, but higher than the 5.2 percent in October 1987. In cities in the interior it stood at 6.8 percent, with highs of 10.6 percent in Santa Fe and Santo Tome, 10.1 in Tucuman and Tafi Viejo and 9.1 percent in Greater San Juan. Although these are historic highs in unemployment among those who are looking for jobs or for a work week of normal length, it bears noting that the employment rate, gauged as the percentage of the total population that is gainfully employed, is on the rise. Last October it stood at 39.4 percent, compared to 38.9 percent in October 1987. This is practically the highest percentage since 1974 and 1975, when INDEC began conducting its jobs survey.

Trends in Employment and Unemployment

Period	Employed	Unemployed	Underemployed
October 1983	37.3	3.9	5.9
April 1984	37.8	4.7	5.4
October 1984	37.9	4.4	5.9
May 1985	37.9	6.3	7.5
November 1985	38.3	5.9	7.4
May 1986	—	—	—
November 1986	38.9	5.2	7.3
April 1987	39.5	6.0	8.2
October 1987	38.9	5.7	8.1
May 1988	39.2	6.5	7.8
October 1988	39.4	6.1	7.9

*** Royalty Payment Issue Stalls Petroplan**
33480132a Buenos Aires AMBITO FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Feb 89 pp 7, 41

[Report by Luis A. Rey: "Twilight of the Producer State: Petroplan Stalled Because It Does Not Suit YPF"]

[Text] There is a growing consensus that the age of the state that produces industrial and commercial goods and services is over. Even the countries with socialist economies are replacing ideology with pragmatism and trying to lure private capital and enterprise into many areas that used to be regarded as natural activities or monopolies of government.

Argentina has begun the switch from a corporative political structure and a statist economy to a political democracy and a modern capitalism that will enable us to emerge from stagnation and to grow, thus joining the world of technological revolution to meet our aspirations in social welfare, education, health care and living standards.

The streamlining and privatization of state-run enterprises is part of this transformation.

In the oil sector, the productivity of YPF [Government Oil Deposits], which for many years was considered a political power target and the booty of bureaucracy, labor and management, is today between one-fourth and one-fifth of the average of the international petroleum industry.

This fact emerges from a comparative study of the productivity of international companies.

A series of international companies were studied to compare their productivity with that of YPF. Like YPF, these firms can produce, refine, transport and market their products.

Information was gathered on more than 30 international companies in the United States and the rest of the world. It was taken from their annual reports (1986) and through an exchange of data with them.

The companies span a wide range in terms of numbers of employees and production volumes of gas and oil. The data were standardized and the companies grouped together by output and production structure so that they could be readily compared with YPF. Then, to facilitate the analysis, averages were worked out, yielding the results seen in Table 1 [tables not reproduced here].

Tons of oil equivalent (TOE) were calculated by adding together the volumes of oil and gas produced and multiplying by a density of 0.9 kg/l, bearing in mind that 1,000 cubic meters of gas are equivalent to 1 cubic meter of petroleum.

In calculating the total number of employees of the companies, the study considered only personnel assigned to exploration, production, refining, transportation, marketing and administration. In the case of YPF, drilling and seismic-commissions personnel were excluded.

Productivity per person was calculated as the ratio of TOE a day to the number of employees. In this case, TOE is the total volume of hydrocarbons produced, transported, refined and/or marketed by the companies, and in YPF's case the approximately 11,000 employees of State Gas were added in, inasmuch as this enterprise transports and distributes gas.

Ratio

For the indicator of cubic meters a day produced per person, only the volumes of oil produced and only the employees assigned to exploration and production were considered.

Likewise, the indicator of cubic meters a day marketed per person was calculated as the ratio of the volume of oil marketed to the total number of employees in refining, transportation, marketing and administration.

The above table shows that the productivity of international oil companies is between 3.5 and 5 times higher than YPF's.

The information gathered also enabled the onshore and offshore production of the companies and local (in the United States) versus overseas (international) production to be quantified.

The index of productivity per well was also obtained, using the total volume of hydrocarbon production (TOE) a day and the total number of gas and oil producing wells. The following table was compiled with these data.

The above table shows that YPF's per well productivity is double the average of the oil companies. Although Argentina's petroleum output is 7 cubic meters per well a day, the high productivity of the gas-bearing wells boosts the total to 15.01 TOE per well a day. Moreover, 100 percent of YPF output is onshore and local (Argentina). Only 58 percent of the output of the oil companies studied is onshore, with the remainder from offshore deposits. Their local production (in the United States) stands at 60 percent; the remaining 40 percent is from operations in a wide range of countries.

As a result, the study tried to standardize the production values it obtained to make them more comparable, taking into account productivity per well, the operational characteristics and the geographic diversity of exploitation.

To this end, the productivity figures were recalculated with the three aforementioned factors figured in.

Productivity

These factors were calculated as the ratio of YPF productivity per well to the per well productivity of the other oil companies and as the ratio of YPF onshore and local output to that of the other oil companies.

It was assumed that each of these factors had a 20 percent impact on total productivity. Thus, redoing the calculations yielded the results seen in Table 2.

We can now see that the relative productivity of the foreign companies, standardized by per well productivity, international geographic dispersion and offshore production, is even higher. In other words, if the international oil industry operated under the same operating conditions as YPF, the productivity gap would be even greater (Table 3).

These numbers lay bare the difficulties involved in streamlining YPF and the opposition of the government union and the personnel associations to altering this state of affairs.

In order for its productivity to be competitive in the industry, YPF would have to cut its payroll to no more than 10,000 employees. The cost of low productivity, which the entire country pays for, cannot be gauged by the total wages paid out. Each superfluous employee or official generates many more unnecessary expenditures than just his pay, because he needs space, lighting, a telephone and, above all, must justify his presence by producing files, reports, paperwork, etc.

The recent reduction of the workday to 7 hours in YPF will further worsen the situation. It merely conceals a wage hike with grave future consequences. The production and refining of oil is a continuous, 24-hour a day process that is normally divided into three 8-hour shifts.

Seven-hour workdays will make the scheduling of these shifts very vulnerable, as it will depend on the willingness of the workers to put in an extra hour a day.

Given the country's economic situation, the shorter workday that the union has gotten is a privilege that other workers find offensive and that shows the inability of the political authorities who granted it to control the government union's power.

The government oil union has come out against the Houston Plan and has threatened a general strike if the Petroplan is implemented. This borders on blackmail and is an abuse of the workers' legitimate right to strike.

The main political parties, including the Justicialist Party, have supported the Houston Plan and so told the international oil community.

The position of the government union runs counter to this support and confuses those who may be willing to invest in the country.

Colombia became a self-sufficient, exporting country after it signed more than 250 exploration contracts with more than 80 oil companies. Brazil is close to doubling our output after signing more than 230 contracts. Here, the union says that the exploration program ought to be suspended because future reserves are assured, before it has signed even 30 contracts or drilled the first exploratory well.

The result of the fourth round of the Houston Plan will be hurt more by this disquieting panorama than by the drop in oil prices and ought to be a cause for concern among current and future authorities.

As of September 1988 the oil trade balance since January was $78.4 million in the red, although the deficit could shrink because of exports during the last quarter. But the consumption of gasoline and diesel oil declined 30 percent between March 1987 and September 1988. Self-sufficiency owing to lower consumption is nothing to be proud of.

Petroplan

The Petroplan is a reasonable and perfectible program to channel private capital into the reactivation of low-output deposits in which it is not financially feasible or a priority for the YPF to invest so as to boost production.

This would be good for both the country and the provinces, which implicitly support the idea when they call on YPF to boost output locally so that their royalty revenues rise.

According to some authorities, the Petroplan has not come out because it does not suit YPF to pay royalties on an international price set by the government that is much higher than the actual price.

The solution is to remove YPF as a middleman between the provinces collecting the royalties and the producers.

YPF ought to return the Petroplan's areas to the Energy Secretariat, which should then lease them to the provinces.

Thus, the provinces would hold bids, contract or form partnerships with private companies and negotiate directly with them even on the royalty percentage to arrive at a reasonable financial arrangement that would make investment and higher production feasible.

Legislation does not have to be amended to do this; YPF must simply be forced to comply with Hydrocarbons Law 17,319, which obliges the lessees of areas to return them to the Energy Secretariat when they are not properly exploring or developing them.

Leasing these areas to the provinces would be a bargaining chip for the central government and a way to compensate for the announced cut in royalties that YPF is now paying.

For example, the state, which owns the facilities in the Petroplan areas, would turn them over to the provinces, which would then receive production royalties from private contractors. This would also be a way to compensate the provinces for the very low royalties they have received over the past 20 or 30 years.

This is good for the country because production will rise and for the provinces because their revenues and economic activity will expand.

I realize that it is not good for the state union, which is also against the formation of the provincial hydrocarbons enterprises because they would erode its power, which is based on the YPF monopoly.

Proper Decision

I even realize that there may be those who think that this is not good for YPF from a strictly business standpoint, although I think that only through a process of depoliticization, deregulation and demonopolization can it become an efficient enterprise.

But business or union interests, whether public or private, cannot come before the general interest and prevail only under corporativist dictatorships.

The provinces have until now been uninvited guests in the planning and development of their oil resources. Since the supply of technologies and investments is diversified today, they could manage their own development in a manner that suited their interests better than an official sitting in Buenos Aires could.

Salta and Jujuy, for example, possess large gas reserves. A pipeline that would carry gas to Chile across these provinces was studied by State Gas more than 25 years ago.

The possibility of supplying gas would radically alter the economic feasibility of the region's mining industry. Nonetheless, State Gas and YPF never came to terms on carrying the project forward, and in the interim YPF vented off more gas than could have been consumed over 30 years of operation of a pipeline that could both supply these provinces and export gas to Chile.

I think that if Salta and Jujuy could make use of their fossil fuels today, they would very likely secure investors to explore for, develop and transport gas in the manner that best suited their regional interests.

The province of Chaco is another example. Some areas in the Chaco-Paranaense basin have been auctioned under the Houston Plan, and thus Chaco could become an oil-producing province if future exploratory efforts are successful.

But why only now and not years ago, when venture capital was abundant?

Simply because it was not in the interest or the power of YPF to explore the Chaco-Paranaense basin or have it explored intensely, and it acted without taking into account the interests of Chaco, which could do little or nothing about it. Similar examples could be cited for almost all of the provinces with sedimentary basins.

Under the current system the provinces get 12 percent royalties on the world price. This has been a reasonable and, I would say, appropriate percentage for the provinces as of January 1987, since which time the benchmark price has been the world price. But since the percentage is inelastic and since the provinces are not involved in the discussions, it could be too high in some cases, and then the projects that would be feasible with a smaller royalty are not developed, and the provinces cannot negotiate a higher percentage for highly profitable projects.

The provinces themselves ought to auction off the areas in their jurisdiction; there would thus be competition not only in the supply of capital but also in domestic demand.

The provinces could also choose other contract arrangements, such as bonuses, production-sharing or any other that would best suit their interests.

The oil with which the country is now self-sufficient has been in the bowels of the earth for millions of years. Yet the country has imported a total of 175,000,000 cubic meters of oil and derivatives over the past 45 years; the current value of this amount, updated at a rate of 12 percent, comes to $70 billion. All of this money, which exceeds the amount of our foreign debt, went to importers instead of having been used to pay for Argentine labor, goods and services, and even royalties and taxes, if the oil had been produced in the country.

This is the past that is defended by those who are opposed to demonopolizing, deregulating and transforming the state-run oil-production structure.

Bolivia

IMF To Release $36 Million for Bolivia

PY3003133689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Fernando Romero has announced that in the next few hours the IMF will release $36 million to strengthen the Bolivian economy.

Romero said that as a result of his recent meetings with members of the IMF executive board he was able to get the disbursement that the country needs. He added that on 27 March the IMF approved another stage of the Bolivian economic program by releasing the loan.

Romero also said that Bolivia was able to show the IMF that its economic program is solid and that it is aimed at finding new ways to give more benefits to the general population.

Romero recently returned from Amsterdam, where he attended the IDB governors meeting and where he was also able to reach some agreements with financial organizations. He said that the disbursement of $36 million for Bolivia is significant; other countries of the region have not been able to get this preferential treatment due to the problems they are facing.

Official Says Brady Plan May Ease Debt Burden

PY3003141589 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Fernando Romero has said that if the Brady Plan is implemented it may ease the burden of the foreign debt.

He added that [words indistinct] in the long run may relieve the burden of the debt on countries that have an unbearable debt to private banks. He added that the Brady Plan can help countries reach an understanding with the international private banks, especially for better conditions to repurchase the debt.

Romero explained that the Brady Plan can be more useful to countries with commercial debt, because it can solve those commitments. He said that Bolivia has a minimum commitment to commercial banks, and therefore the Brady plan will not directly benefit Bolivia.

Bilateral Trade Agreement Signed With Hungary

PY3003185889 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] The Foreign Trade Directorate has reported that the Bolivian Central Bank and the Hungarian Foreign Trade Bank have signed a $1-million mutual credit accord. The objective of the accord is to promote bilateral trade, especially Bolivian exports to Hungary.

Under the accord the Bolivian Central Bank can authorize financial institutions to negotiate letters of credit, documentary credits, bills, promissory notes, and orders of payment.

Accounts will be settled twice yearly. If the balance surpasses the amount specified by the accord, it will be compensated during the next 6-month period provided the remaining balance does not surpass 10 percent of the amount specified by the accord.

The accord will provide the framework for commercial operations between Bolvian and Hungarian companies. Trade will be valued in U.S. Dollars, and not be influenced by the exchange rates prevailing in each country.

Under the terms of this accord, Bolivia can export to Hungary all products that are not banned by the existing regulations.

The products that may be imported from Hungary include capital goods, equipment, spare parts, vehicles, and goods for direct consumption.

FSB Presidential Candidate Turns in Resignation

PY3003165889 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 21 Mar 89 p 1, 11

[Excerpt] Brewery businessman Max Fernandez Rojas last night submitted his irrevocable resignation to his candidacy to the presidency for Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB), after this party imposed "unacceptable conditions" which involve"virtual extortion."

His resignation was submitted to the National Electoral Court a few minutes before midnight, the deadline for the modification or confirmation of the tickets of candidates for Congress for the 7 May elections.

During a special plenary session early this morning the court analyzed the resignation. It decided that the case should be resolved by the FSB because the court does not deal with individuals, only with legally established parties.

Last night, however, the FSB submitted its modified tickets confirming Max Fernandez and Waldo Cerruto as its presidential and vice presidential candidates, respectively. The tickets include a majority of FSB members, while Max Fernandez' National Civic Union members are in minority. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Harshly Criticizes UN Environmental Stand

PY3103032789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today President Sarney inaugurated the Sixth Latin American and Caribbean Ministers' Meeting on the Environment. The assistant executive director of the UN program on the environment and the president of the Inter- American Development Bank attended the meeting along with representatives of 27 countries.

During his speech, President Sarney said the world is increasingly threatened by the destruction of our natural environment and blamed the industrialized countries for this deterioration.

"In this hallucinatory history, underdeveloped countries have contributed with the most tragic pollution: The pollution created by poverty and all forms of exploitation of which they were victims during centuries of colonialism, shameless, inhuman, and cruel exploitation."

The president said that no one can separate the intricate connection between ecological problems and the unjust world social and economic order.

"The main obstacles in solving the problems of the environment reside in the unjust and terrible inequalities that exist in our world, the deep breach between the rich and the poor, the deterioration of our terms of trade, the increasing protectionism of the industrialized countries, and the unbearable burden of the foreign debt that has transformed the developing countries into net exporters of capital."

Sarney argued that international organizations should finance projects to protect the enviroment. He also said that developing countries should have free access, without commercial cost, to new technologies to protect the environment. According to Sarney, Brazil is aware of the seriousness of our environmental problems and will spare no efforts to reconcile our social and economic development with the protection of the environment.

"Brazil is determined to prevent the deterioration of the environment within its territory. We are convinced that the standards of industrialization and consumption of the industrialized countries are the main culprits for the seriousness of the environmental problems facing the world today."

The president said that industrialized countries have the responsibility of reverting the process of environmental deterioration.

"Those countries not only have larger resources but also the effective capacity to control the release of pollutants in the atmosphere, either by reducing the superfluous and irrational use of fossil fuels, or by developing alternative energy resources."

Sarney noted that the stockpile of enormous nuclear arsenals are the main threat to the environment and to the survival of mankind. Sarney also criticized the attempts to question the sovereignty of countries over their own territory.

"We cannot accept any mechanism by which some countries attempt to impose their will on other countries: the stronger on the weaker, the richer on the poorer, the more developed on the less developed. The self-determination of peoples and the sovereign equality of the states are two basic principles of the United Nations Charter."

According to Sarney, the sovereignty and freedom of peoples are nonnegotiable values. He said Brazil is aware of its responsibility in preserving its patrimony and those who want to lead the way regarding what we should not do will not teach us any lessons.

Government Terms 'Inappropriate'

PY3103031289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The Brazilian Government considers the speech by Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the UN program on the environment, diplomatically inappropriate.

The speech was read by a representative of the program at the opening ceremony of the Latin America and Caribbean Ministers' Meeting on the Environment.

The position of the Brazilian Government was made known by President Sarney, who called the speech inappropriate.

The UN representative's speech suggested that the Brazilian Government should hear a proposal to transform part of the foreign debt into projects to preserve the environment. President Sarney said Brazil understands the feeling of Latin American and Caribbean countries, but does not want to transform problems affecting our sovereignty into problems on the environment.

The UN representative's speech at the Sixth Latin American and Caribbean Ministers' Meeting on the Environment referred to Ecuador and Costa Rica, which agreed to convert part of their debt into projects linked to the environment.

Finance Minister Orders Foreign Debt Payments

PY3103010189 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Mar 89 p 22

[By Silvia Faria]

[Text] Brasilia—Until late last night, the National Treasury Secretariat, the Bank of Brazil, and the Central Bank worked frantically to comply with Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega's order to pay a $1.3-billion portion of the foreign debt that has been in arrears since December 1988. The settlement of these payments in March was a condition negotiated in the Netherlands during the recent IDB meeting for the release of a $600-million installment under the terms of the debt agreement reached last September.

The payment of nearly $400 million in interest for part of December and the January-March period will place a significant amount of pressure on the March treasury cash-flow, practically doubling the expected deficit of 450 million new cruzados.

Despite all the efforts, it was impossible to fully comply with the minister's order. Up until yesterday, only $500 million was paid since there was no time for the Treasury to send telexes to debtors to report to the Bank of Brazil or the Central Bank to authorize payments. Payments will continue to be made today until the $1.3 billion ordered by Minister Mailson da Nobrega is fully paid. However, these payments will not reach creditors' hands in March as agreed, because clearance operations take 48 hours.

Minister Nobrega's order violates a rule he had established to the effect that the Treasury must make payments abroad with a 60-day delay for multilateral institutions, and a 90-day delay for private foreign banks. Although the states and municipalities should only pay 8 percent of their total debt (and roll-over 92 percent), the central government was demanding full payment to speed up the process. Only the interest is remitted abroad, while the principal is retained at the Central Bank.

Chile

Constitutional Amendment Proposal Discussed

PY3003120389 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] The technical committees of the government and of the Democratic Coalition this afternoon held a second meeting to analyze possible constitutional amendments.

Christian Democratic Party member Francisco Cumplido, who represents the opposition, said that the main objective of the meeting was to listen to the opinion of the committee appointed by the Interior Minister regarding specific amendments.

[Begin recording] [Cumplido] Establishing clear positions is an important step forward. Clarifying each proposal is an important basic part of dialogue. We are still at that stage. No agreements have been reached yet, but we have made important clarifications.

[Reporter] Do you think that important agreements have been reached between the two committees regarding the study to amend the constitution?

[Cumplido] Agreements always exist on certain aspects of any given matter, but we cannot say that there is full agreement, or that an important agreement has been reached. We are considering some basic points, and we have reached a partial agreement. An amendment of this type has several aspects because of the constitutional and political significance of any amendment. It is not our task to analyze the political signficance of the amendment; we are concerned with the constitutional and legal aspects. This is what we have been doing. We hope that no political talks will be held. [end recording]

Cumplido expressed hope that an agreement on constitutional matters will be achieved. He concluded by saying that the meetings between the two committees will probably continue.

Political Alliances Proposal Submitted

PY3003150289 Santiago Television de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Speaking about the establishment of political alliances, Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has said that citizens need to know the ideologies of all political parties.

[Begin recording] [Caceres] Yesterday, the executive branch submitted a draft bill to the government junta that allows the establishment of restricted political alliances. The government junta discussed this draft bill yesterday. The alliances would be restricted in that they could not nominate more than two candidates and that before the official establishment of an alliance, the political parties must declare in writing that they share similar ideologies. This means that all political parties within an alliance share the fundamental values they intend to uphold.

[Reporter] That means that political party must clearly define its ideology?

[Caceres] Yes, indeed. To achieve civic coexistence, citizens demand that each political party disclose its objectives, its goals, and its basic ideology.

[Reporter] Is there a deadline for reaching a consensus on constitutional reforms?

[Caceres] There is obviously a deadline. We do not have as much time as we would have liked. We are guided by a series of deadlines that have been established in the 1989 election timetable. We are therefore making every effort to reach a consensus as soon as possible, but with the prudence that such an issue demands. I think we are heading in the right direction. [end recording]

Opposition Leaders Comment

PY3003152489 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Speaking about the government proposal to authorize political alliances among parties sharing similar ideologies, Interior Minister Carlos Caceres has said that the government has submitted this proposal to the government junta, which is currently studying it. [passage omitted]

National Renewal Party [Parena] leader (Federico Mejis) said that the establishment of restricted political alliances as proposed by the executive branch will help limit disagreements that naturally exist among parties. This proposal will also allow candidates from several parties

with similar ideologies to be included in the same party list. They will thus be able to complement each other with their experience and gain more political force.

(Mejis) said that there will be three alliances running in the elections, because it will be very difficult for all opposition parties to form a single alliance in view of the diametrically opposed ideolgies some parties uphold.

PPD [Party for Democracy] leader Luis Cordero said that the government proposal to establish political alliances will help keep campaign discussion centered on doctrinal issues and not on secondary issues. He added that the UDI prefers open alliances but that it will comply with the executive branch decision.

PDC [Christian Democratic Party] Leader Eduardo Benninger said that the executive branch proposal is inopportune, arbitrary, and biased. He said that the reorganization of electoral districts is not proportional to the number of inhabitants.

Social Democratic Party Leader Renee Abeliyuk has said that restricted political alliances harm the opposition because there are at least five opposition currents.

PARENA Leader Miguel Otero has said that both the proposal to allow alliances and the reorganization of electoral districts need more extensive study.

Socialist Party Rules Out Communist Alliance

PY3003230289 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Socialist leader Erich Schnake has stated that the Socialist Party Nunez Faction [PS-Nunez] will not form an alliance or sign a pact with the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] because the PCCh does not seek to restore democracy in the country.

Schnake referred to his nomination PS-Nunez secretary general, which will be decided at the party national congress in May. He said that his nomination is designed to broaden the unity of the opposition to move toward stable democracy.

Schnake seeks the reunification of the Socialist Party, which, he said, will ultimately be achieved, although not tomorrow.

Concerning the negotiations conducted by Ricardo Nunez, he said that the participation of the PS-Nunez grass-roots has been restricted. Schnake has also expressed his support for a more democratic leadership. He said that no agreement has been reached with the PCCh regarding programs, and as long as the PCCh does not change its attitude relations will not be deepened.

Police Break Up Communist Cell, Seize Weapon

PY3003230789 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] The civilian police have dismantled a military cell of the Communist Youth Organization. The group was made up of Juan Carlos Amaya del Campo, Miguel Quevedo Arancibia, Daniel Iturra Lizana, Carlos Lopez Ojeda and Aldo Gonzalez Meneses.

The M-16 rifle found in their possession was illegally brought into Chile through the northern sector of the country. The individuals, the confiscated rifle, and the subversive material have been placed at the disposal of the ad hoc military prosecutor.

Industrial Production Growth Rate Reported

PY3003212389 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Industrial production rose significantly in February 1989. Production increased by 13.4-percent compared to last February.

A report released by the Industrial Development Association [SOFOFA] emphazises that industrial production experienced a 15.3-percent growth rate in the first 2 months of 1989.

Industrial sales increased by 5.8-percent compared to 1988 [as heard] and 10-percent compared to the first 2 months of 1988.

In addition, the industrial consumption of electric power, a rate that accurately reflects the level of industrial activity, experienced a 9.9-percent increase in February 1989.

SOFOFA President Fernando Aguero has emphasized that the industrial sector currently plans to receive investments worth $990 million, while the forestry sector is awaiting $1.5 billion in investments. He stressed that the pertinent projects are under way and will be completed soon.

Concerning the impact of the fruit problem on industrial activities, Aguero pointed out that many companies are involved in the fruit sector. Therefore, the crisis would make the SOFOFA change its targeted industrial growth rate for 1989, which has been set at 6.5 percent.

Colombia

President Barco Meets With M-19 Representatives

PA3103023189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0149 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 30 Mar (EFE)—Colombian President Virgilio Barco today met with 8 of the 13 members of the 19 April Movement (M-19) "team of spokesmen" at the Narino Palace. Barco and the M-19 members talked about the peace process started by the government and the guerrillas.

A Presidential Palace source told EFE that the guerrilla representatives discussed with President Barco some of the issues to be debated at the "working roundtables." The "working roundtables" comprise delegates of the guerrillas, the government, and the political parties represented in the Colombian Congress, who will exchange views on the changes the country needs.

The M-19 delegates arrived at the Narino Palace, located in downtown Bogota, under strict security measures at 1800 local time (2300 GMT).

Meanwhile, at the Peace Village in the mountains of Cauca Department, 350 km southwest of Bogota, M-19 Commander Carlos Pizarro Leongomez released a communique in which he accused the Colombian Army of attacking an M-19 group on 26 March. According to Pizarro, the attack was staged by the military to "create obstacles for the peace process." He added that Commander Marco Chalita, commander of the M-19's "Southern Front," was slightly injured in the fighting.

On 26 March, 9th Brigade troops clashed with the "Amanda Rincon" group, led by Chalita, in a rural area of Pitalito municipality, Huila Department. Defense Minister General Manuel Jaime Guerrero Paz described the clash as "an unfortunate incident."

Pizarro said in a communique issued at the Peace Village today that the troops attacked the rebels and that "two of our comrades were killed and three others wounded."

The M-19 commander said "he shared the defense minister's viewpoint," and he said "obstacles still must be overcome" to achieve a national reconciliation.

The M-19 began talks with the Colombian Government in January. Following a series of meetings with President Barco's envoys, they agreed on the creation of "roundtables." Last week, the M-19 and Government Minister Raul Orejuela met at the Peace Village, where the guerrillas presented the names of the delegates that would participate at the "roundtables," which are scheduled to begin deliberations on 3 April.

M-19 Admits Commander Wounded in Clash

PA3103013489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0010 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] According to a press communique sent from Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, the M-19 [19 April Movement] tonight admitted that Marco Chalita, one of the most feared commanders of this guerrilla group in southern Huila Department, has been wounded.

According to the communique, which contradicts official reports released by the 9th Brigade commander, the guerrilla group led by Chalita was attacked while it was on its way to participate in a regional dialogue in Cauca.

The Army has reiterated that any M-19 group that has not settled in Santo Domingo and is moving around the countryside will be attacked.

UP Leader Urges CNG Participation in Talks

PA3003134189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1932 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Mar (EFE)—Diego Montana, acting president of the Patriotic Union [UP], told EFE today that only the participation of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) in the peace talks could guarantee a political solution in Colombia.

The CNG groups the six main leftist guerrilla organizations that operate in Colombia. There are 20,000 guerrillas in 100 fronts throughout Colombia.

The groups comprising the CNG are the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC, communist); the Popular Liberation Army (EPL, Maoist); Camilista Union-Army of National Liberation (UC-ELN, pro-Castroite); the 19 April Movement (M-19, nationalist left); Quintin Lame Movement (indigenist); and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT, Trotskyist).

Talks between the government, the M-19, and the traditional political parties will begin in Bogota on 3 April as part of the dialogue process, which the government and guerrilla movements began last January to achieve peace.

The UP announced in early March that it would not participate in the roundtables, the name given to the talks that will begin next Monday and in which the participants will discuss the large number of political crimes that have been perpetrated by rightist paramilitary groups.

Since the UP was founded, nearly 1,000 of its members and leaders have been murdered.

The "dirty war" against the left, progressive politicians, and human rights activists has resulted in 700 political assassinations so far this year.

There were 2,978 political assassinations in 1988; 1,200 in 1987; and 1,000 in 1986.

In addition, nearly 1,500 people were killed in clashes between the Armed Forces and guerrillas in 1988. So far this year, about 100 people have been killed in clashes.

Diego Montana told EFE that he was pleased to see that the M-19 had initiated peace talks with the government, but he noted that the rest of the CNG accounts for 84 percent of the rebels.

"I am pleased to see that the government is holding talks with 16 percent of the guerrillas," Montana said, "but the peace process will not be successful if the other 84 percent of the guerrilla groups keep on fighting."

Montana also praised the latest communique issued by the CNG, which was signed by the FARC, the EPL, and the UC-ELN, which announced their decision to begin talks with the government, but which linked their participation to the dismantling of rightist paramilitary groups.

Moreover, Jacobo Arenas, commander of the FARC and member of the CNG staff, told Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network that "anything leading to the opening of roads, the building of bridges, and the opening of locks is beneficial," and he praised the talks between the government and the M-19 in that regard.

Arenas, however, said the M-19 had pulled itself out of the CNG by reaching a peace agreement on its own and that in the next plenary meeting the possible expulsion of the M-19 from the CNG would be studied.

Paraguay

Laino Questions Cleanliness of Elections

PA3003215489 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 27 Mar 89

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Domingo Laino, presidential candidate of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), by Xochitl Gallardo; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Paraguay's leading political opposition force, the Authentic Liberal Radical Party [PLRA], proclaimed Domingo Laino as its presidential candidate for the May elections. Accepting his party's nomination after a 2-day meeting among top party leaders, the 54-year-old Laino said that although his party does not have economic power, it has moral power and clean hands. Laino said that if he wins the election, his party would be capable of running a good government. In his Imevision interview, Laino—who is among the Latin American political prisoners who have spent most time in prison—points out that within Paraguay's opposition, there is still a deep-seated fear that May's elections will not be clean and honest.

[Gallardo] Do you believe Paraguay's opposition can count on a guarantee of clean elections on 1 May?

[Laino] We have our doubts, because we are now fully into the registration of new voters until 30 March, and my party, the PLRA, is constantly finding stumbling blocks in its path: The [words indistinct] is not present; the [word indistinct] is closed; there are no registration forms—all in all, typical hindrances that smack of fraud. We experienced unabashed fraud under Stroessner's dictatorship; now, although we are not perfectionists, we would like to improve on the past elections.

[Gallardo] Can the opposition win this election, and if it does, what would your party's leading pledge be to the Paraguayan people?

[Laino] I am absolutely sure the PLRA will win the Paraguayan elections if the minimum conditions and guarantees exist. We have a great following. I believe many who are undecided will vote for the PRLA, even members of the Colorado Party [National Republican Association - Colorado Party]. If the PRLA wins the elections, its number one priority would be to strengthen respect for human rights. Human rights, which are universally (?indicative) of liberalism, are our sole fundamental priority. We must also strengthen the de jure state, the republican system of government, and the independence from one another of the three branches of power—legislative, executive, and judicial—and offer total guarantees for all the parties and all the ideologies present in Paraguay. We must also attend to the [word indistinct] issue, peasant, worker, and unemployment issues, and that large contingent of Paraguayan immigrants.

One third of Paraguay's population lives abroad. This [words indistinct] the family. We know the family is the very foundation of society, which is why these issues will be our economic and social priorities.

Christian Democrats Release Platform

PY3003183389 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 10

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has released its platform for the upcoming elections. The platform includes three proposals: a complete restructuring of the national life based on an efficient organization of the people, the construction of a state based on peaceful coexistence and the law, and the political and economic integration of Latin America into a society that transcends nationalities.

As for its state policy, the PDC vows to struggle for a state under a genuinely democratic government that can guarantee a stable organization for the Paraguayan people. To achieve this objective, the PDC suggests calling a national constituent assembly. The PDC also proposes the creation of a social and democratic state of law, with a govewrnment that should be freely elected at a municipal, regional, and national level, with strictly respected division and interdependence of the branches of government.

The PDC will sponsor the approval of a new electoral law and a political party law. The platform also provides for the approval of a new law for military and police personnel, and for the amendment of the municipal law.

Concerning social policy, the PDC platform outlines three major areas. The first two are: public works or services to communities (electrification of rural areas, paving of dirt roads and main roads, etc.), and jobs or working conditions (updating of the labor code, payment of minimum salaries, the creation of independent and efficient union organizations. In the third area, which refers to social security, the PDC proposes to establish

the minimum living standards for the family, to enforce a social security code, to create a social security ministry and a social security bank, etc.

The PDC platform also includes other specific topics concerning among others, education, housing, and the situation of women, the family, youth, and children.

The PDC is very interested in economic policy. Among its general objectives are full employment, monetary stability, equilibrium in the balance of trade, and satisfaction of the basic needs of the family. The PDC economic policy will also promote comprehensive economic development and social justice for the lower income class.

Colorado Party Candidates for Congress Listed

PY3003140389 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] The "consensus" list has been made known officially. This list emerged from the pact between traditionalists and dissidents [of the Colorado Party], and it will be submitted to party delegates this coming weekend, when the Colorado Party will hold its extraordinary convention. Once again the list does not contain the name of Luis Becker. This list will run against the list that has been submitted by Horacio Galeano Perrone. Nothing is decided yet, because talks and mini-meetings continue within the party's Executive Board and outside it. Following is the complete list of candidates for the party's Executive Board, the Chamber of Deputies, and the Senate:

Future deputies

List of the candidates for the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Dr Ruben Stanley 2. Dr Persio da Silva 3. Dr Miguel Angel Aquino 4. Dr Juan Roque Galeano 5. Dr Angel Roberto Seifart 6. Dr Osvaldo Bergonzi 7. Dr Julio Cesar Frutos 8. Public Accountant Eugenio Sanabria Cantero 9. Dr Julio Cesar Vasconsellos 10. Dr Atilio Rolando Fernandez 11. Dr Eladio Loizaga Caballero 12. Mr Sandino B. Gill Oporto 13. Mr Pablo Narvaja 14. Dr Efrain Enriquez Gamon.

The following persons are also candidates for the Chamber of Deputies: 15. Mr Juan Carlos Galaverna 16. Dr Oscar Facundo Ynsfran 17. Dr Jose Martin Palumbo 18. Eng Bartolome Sanchez 19. Dr Ruben O. Fanego 20. Dr Dionisio Nicolas Frutos 21. Dr Miguel Angel Ramirez 22. Dr Jose Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli 23. Mr Hipolito Mendoza 24. Mr Ramon Martinez Caceres 25. Dr Antonio Salum Flecha 26. Dr Jose Pappalardo Zaldivar 27. Dr Osvaldo Frutos . 28. Dr Antonio Alvarez Alvarenga 29. Dr Genaro Sanchez 30. Dr Juan Ernesto Villamayor 31. Mr Lorenzo Garbet 32. Dr Victor Hugo Sanchez 33. Mr Ciriaco Gonzalez

The list also includes: 34. Dr Antonia Nunez de Lopez 35. Eng Felix Ibarra Llano 36. Dr Faustino Centurion 37. Dr Nelson Argana 38. Eng Juan Bautista Ibanez 39. Mr Antonio Gonzalez Prieto 40. Artemio Castillo 41. Dr Carlos Galeano Perrone 42. Dr Andres Gomez Galeano 43. Mr Samuel Ramirez 44. Dr Nelson A. Villate 45. Dr Eduardo Venialgo 46. Vidal Flor Jara 47. Dr Carlos Duarte Torres 48. Mr Ricardo Esperanza Leiva 49. Mr Idilio Castiglione 50. Mr Cesar Augusto Maggi Zarza 51. Mr Oscar Acuna Presentado 52. Dr Carlos Martinez 53. Dr Margarita Britos de Villafane 54. Mr Reinaldo Duarte 55. Dr Rodolfo Garcete 56. Dr Carmen Stela Y. de Zarza 57. Mr Omar Alvisio Urdapilleta 58. Mr Sabino Ramon Ortigoza 59. Mr Carlos A. Acosta 60. Mr Rolando Fernandez Yegros 61. Mr Andres Rodriguez 62. Mr Evasio Plinio Vera Garay 63. Mr Silvestre Gomez Rolon 64. Mr Jose Maria Sarubbi Lepretti 65. Dr Aparicio Fretes Farias 66. Dr Teodosio Ibarrola 67. Mr Carlos Dominguez 68. Mr Emiliano Ullon 69. Mr Abraham Nunez 70. Mr Ruben Rodriguez 71. Mrs Liduvina Valiente de Gill 72. Mr Marcelino Correa Martinez.

Alternate members: 1. Dr Dionisio Avila Orue 2. Mr Bernardo Rodriguez 3. Mr Victor Hugo Pena Bareiro 4. Dr Fernando Martinez 5. Dr Cristina Munoz 6. Mr Domingo Romero 7. Dr Hugo Saguier Caballero 8. Mr Pedro J. Bogarin. 9. Dr Andres Bogado Romero 10. Dr Anibal Filartiga Lacroix 11. Mr Carlos Martin Colarte 12. Eng Jose A. Chicco 13. Mr Juan Princigalli 14. Mr. Manuel Enrique Doldan 15. Dr Isidro Caceres Marin

The list also includes: 16. Dr Carlos Ramon Villalba 17. Mr Marcelo J. Abente 18. Mr Edgar Gimenez Meza 19. Dr Francisco Zichner 20. Dr Marcial Valiente 21. Mr Luis Doldan 22. Architect Sivio Feliciangeli 23. Dr Bernardino Cano Radil 24. Mr Martin Valiente Gomez 25. Mr Constantino Tonanez 26. Dr Ovidio Fleitas 27. Mr Heriberto Florentin Pena 28. Dr Victor Bernal 29. Mr Rogelio Diaz 30. Mr Carlos Zarate 31. Mr Luis Bottino Avelo 32. Mr Virgilio Villalba 33. Mr Pablo Aquino 34. Mr Humberto Barreto 35. Mr Guillermo Britez 36. Mr Jose Eduvigis Diaz 37. Clara Mereles Duarte 38. Mr Bruno Gimenez Caje 39. Mr Hugo Lovera Lopez 40. Alfonsina Etcheverry 41. Mr Julian Doncel 42. Mr Arnaldo Fretes.

List for the Senate

List of candidates for the Senate: 1. Pedro Hugo Pena 2. Mr Blas N. Riquelme 3. Mr Mario Mallorquin 4. Dr Edgar L. Insfran 5. Dr Alberto Nogues 6. Eng. Carlos Romero Pereira 7. Dr Carlos A. Saldivar 8. Dr Carlos Maria Ocampos Arbo 9. Mr Cancio Ayala Cantero 10. Dr Roque J. Avila 11. Dr Juan Manuel Frutos 12. Dr Waldino Ramon Lovera 13. Dr Federico A. Zayas 14. Dr Delio Farina.

The list also contains the following persons: 15. Dr Eduardo San Martin 16. Dr Carlos Zayas Vallejos 17. Dr Marina Aquino de Ortiz 18. Mr Alcibiades Fernandez 19. Mr Juan Vicente Caballero 20. Public Accountant

Abraham Esteche 21. Mr Julio Rolando Elizeche Bogado 22. Gustavo Diaz de Vivar 23. Mr Jose D. Ovelar 24. Mr Fulgencio Aldana 25. Francisco Perez Maricevich 26. Dr Edgar Stanley 27. Mr Anibal Abbate Soley 28. Dr Carlos Podesta 29. Retired Col Antonio Mareco 30. Dr Francisco Centurion Molina 31. Mr Luis Alderete 32. Ruben Dario Troche 33. Mr Pedro Pablo Peris Busto 34. Nelson Benitez 35. Prof Roberto Bordon Insfran 36. Mr Emeliano Morinigo.

Alternate members for the Senate: 1. Public Accountant German Ayala 2. Dr Ramon Centurion Nunez 3. Mr Ceferino Ramirez 4. Mr Artemio Vera 5. Dr Fulgencio Miranda 6.Dr Marcos Antonio Elizeche 7. Mr Ignacio Samaniego 8. Dr Jorge Raul Garcete 9. Dr Albino Moreno Guppy 10. Hector Morales Pena 11. Eng. Luis G. Garay 12. Dr Blas R. Alcaraz 13. Mr Gregorio Morel 14. Mr Leopoldo Cataldi 15. Mr Sindulfo Benitez 16. Mr Gualberto Villar 17. Elba Benitez de Goiburu 18. Retired Colonel (Medical), Dr Eugenio Gonzalez Riobo 19. Antonia Ovando de Galeano 20. Mr Mesde Osta Mendoza 21. Dr Carlos O. Gernohfer.

For the Executive Board of the Colorado Party.

Candidates for the Executive Board: 1. Prof Dr Juan Ramon Chaves 2. Prof Dr Luis Maria Argana 3. Dr Mario Mallorquin 4. Dr Edgar L. Ynsfran 5. Mr Manuel Frutos Pane 6. Dr Osvaldo Chavez 7. Mr Blas N. Riquelme 8. Mr Juan Esteche Fanego 9. Eng Agronomo Carlos Romero Pereira 10. Dr Pedro Hugo Pena 11. Prof Dr Dionisio Gonzalez Torres 12. Dr Miguel A. Gonzalez Casabianca 13. Dr Ruben Stanley 14. Dr Persio da Silva 15. Dr Waldino Ramon Lovera 16. Dr Juan M. Cano Melgarejo 17. Dr Juan Roque Galeano.

The list also includes: 18. Dr Enrique Riera 19. Public Accountant Eugenio Sanabria Cantero 20. Dr Angel Roberto Seifart 21. Eng Leopoldo Ostertag 22. Dr Roque J. Avila 23. Mr Juan Vicente Caballero 24. Mr Julio Rolando Elizeche Bogado 25. Dr Agustin Gonzalez Insfran 26. Dr Marina Aquino de Ortiz 27. Mr Luis A. Becker Genes 28. Dr Julio Cesar Frutos 29. Dr Juan Manuel Frutos 30. Mr Rodolfo Udrizar 31. Dr Oscar Facundo Ynsfran 32. Mr Jose D. Ovelar 33. Dr Miguel Angel Ramirez 34. Dr Atilio Rolando Fernandez 35. Mr Alejandro Stumpf Mendoza.

Candidates for alternate members: 1. Eng Juan Bautista Ibanez 2. Dr Carlos Maria Ocampos 3. Mr Martin Valiente Gomez 4. Mr Manuel Maria Lezcano 5. Mr Julio Fanego 6. Mr J. Bernardino Mendez Vall 7. Eng Esteban Medina 8. Dr Jose Luis Ibarra 9. Mr Fulgencio Aldana 10. Mr Hipolito Mendoza C. 11. Dr Victor Hugo Sanchez 12. Dr Eduardo San Martin 13. Mr Lorenzo Garbett 14. Dr Derlis Esteche 15. Dr Nelson Argana 16. Mr Jose Alderete.

Political Police Head Fired Over Torture Charges

PY3003212989 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 50

[Excerpts] Alberto Cantero, the notorious chief of the Political Section of the Investigative Police Department, has been replaced by Obdulio Arguello Britez, a senior police officer, through an internal resolution of the chief of the Asuncion Police.

It has been reported that Cantero will remain under house arrest until further notice.

General Francisco Sanchez, the chief of police, reported that in preliminary interrogations conducted in police quarters, officers charged with torture have denied the charges. [passage omitted]

Cantero has been widely regarded as one of the most skilled torturers of the Investigative Police Department.

Peru

Minister Says More U.S. Antidrug Aid Needed

PY3003135089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Justice Minister Cesar Delgado Barreto said today that the tragic incident at Uchiza demonstrates that there is an alliance between drug traffickers and terrorists, and that the country should make a more intense effort against them. He said that the attack is a direct consequence of the blows that police have dealt to drug traffickers, including the arrest of several drug gang leaders in Uchiza, a few days before the attack. He added that in order to struggle successfully against drug trafficking, Peru needs more technological and financial aid, especially from the United States, the world's largest drug consumer.

Cargo Train Derailed by Dynamite Charge

PY3003204589 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] A cargo train running from Lima to (Lorohia) was derailed before dawn today after hitting a dynamite charge. Inspector Eulogio Flores died in the explosion.

The police reported that the incident took place past midnight in the Carahuaichi-Jaurin area.

Venezuela

Perez Discusses Economic Meeting in Atlanta

PA3003162289 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Report and telephone interview with President Carlos Andres Perez by unidentified reporter in Atlanta; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, council member of the seminar being sponsored by the Carter Center, arrived at the center in Atlanta,

Georgia, accompanied by former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera. President Perez was greeted by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The Venezuelan delegation and the presidential committee immediately joined the work sessions.

During his speech within the framework of the debate on the foreign debt and economic cooperation, President Perez talked about Latin America's new opportunity to reach common and stable goals and achieve not only the consolidation of democracy, but also prosperity and cooperation among nations.

Mr President, is Latin America's time running out?

[Perez] Yes.

[Reporter] We are facing a critical moment?

[Perez] Of course we are, but we must admit the ideas expressed by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady are pointed in the right direction. We must wait for these ideas to become a plan that will not only be the responsibility of the United States but also of Japan and the EEC. At the same time, the debtor countries will have to share in the responsibility and commitment themselves to make the necessary changes within their economic systems, changes that will make it possible to reach a solution that will keep us from returning to the past.

[Reporter] Mr President, the banks have an important role to play in this. How can they be made to understand this?

[Perez] That is the problem; that is the vicious circle. This is more a political than a financial problem. The banks say they do not play an international political financial role; therefore, we must get the industrialized countries' Group of Seven to reach an agreement, hold talks with the debtor countries, and reach an agreement. If this were done, the banks would have to be included in these negotiations.

[Reporter] Latin America has its hopes on the suggestions to be presented during this very important meeting. Mr President, how do you feel about the meeting?

[Perez] I am optimistic. I have heard what the secretary of the treasury, the IMF, the World Bank, the Japanese representative, and other important persons—such as Mr Robinson of American Express—have had to say, and I feel we are headed in the right direction. My fear is we will, once again, make the same mistake we have been making for the past 7 years; I fear the urgent need to find a solution to the problem will keep us from seeing what is really important: the overall picture to solve the problem once and for all.

[Reporter] Former President Rafael Caldera, who is accompanying President Perez on this trip and who is also a member of the seminar's council, stressed that the governments of the creditor countries should assume direct responsibility in the solution to the problem of the debt and not leave it all up to the goodwill of the banks. Caldera said this could be done with the mediation of a nonprofit institution such as the World Bank.

Labor Minister on Nationwide Strike Possibility

PA3003151889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Responding to recent statements by Democratic Action Labor Secretary Antonio Rios on the possibility of a nationwide strike, Labor Minister Marisela Padron has said that the business community is aware of the country's current situation and is trying to overcome any crisis that may emerge.

[Begin recording] [Padron] I was referring to the need for the business community to make an effort so that, through a concerted effort, satisfactory solutions can be attained.

[Reporter] But the workers do not believe in the concerted effort that has been made so far.

[Padron] The credibility of the concerted effort depends on the ability that the various groups have for reaching agreements and for simply attending the meetings with a desire to reach an agreement. [end recording]

* Businessmen, Economists Study Economic Measures

* FEDECAMARAS View

33480142 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 22 Feb 89 p D7

[Text] FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] has expressed reservations concerning the features of the new economic policy outlined by President Perez in his address to the nation last Thursday, 16 February; with an obviously questioning attitude he indicated, in 12 points, the position of business owners. Following is the text of the entrepreneurs' positions submitted to the news media yesterday:

"1. Everyone realizes that the country demands a reorientation of national life and the adoption of new types of behavior and habits of consumption.

"It also requires a structural transformation that will enable it to move a new direction. In this respect, it is clear that the origin of the measures is none other than the need to correct the mistakes and excesses evident in the direction and orientation of our economy for many years. Several governments spent far more than they were accruing, putting the nation in debt; this has led us to the difficult and compromising situation in which we find ourselves. To seek excuses which lie outside of this

reality would only lead to failure in confronting and overcoming the mistakes made, and would be a sign of immaturity, and a lack of willingness and determination to make amends.

"2. There is a very urgent need to define decrees and measures announced for the implementation of the program as a whole. This can not be postponed. The delay in making decisions is causing serious harm. There is uncertainty, perplexity, and a sizable reduction in the flow of imports and in agricultural production, which will cause shortages. For the success of this announced adjustment program, it is essential that consistency be maintained on the macroeconomic level, and, simultaneously, that the details be properly implemented, so as to avoid contradictions that could cause it to fail.

"3. In view of past experience, we must voice our reservations regarding the announced creation of new public enterprises which would be responsible for marketing and a system of low-cost markets; operations and direct technical assistance for exports; and the privatization process.

"Insofar as privatization is concerned, thus far there has been a great deal said and very little accomplished. In this regard there is no need to create any enterprise; rather it is necessary to take action in this area, amending or creating the laws as necessary to attain the desired goal. Generally speaking, the results achieved by public enterprises do not make us optimistic about this. We are overly surrounded by the financial misfortune suffered by Corpomercadeo [Marketing Corporation] at a cost for all Venezuelans similar to that of the investment required to build the Guri hydroelectric complex. Moreover, the poor operation of the Coffee and Cacao Funds are not exactly examples that would help to create favorable expectations for the creation of these new enterprises.

"4. It is the desire of all citizens that we have satisfactory public services and, in this respect, we are aware of the importance of justifying their rates.

"But we cannot agree with the simplistic procedure of raising the amount thereof, without simultaneously demanding that the responsible agencies improve and increase the efficiency of their administration and considerably improve the quality of their services. It has become imperative that operating expenses be reduced and that surplus employees be shifted, making maximum use of the support offered by private sector services.

"5. Regarding the allocation of import approvals, the decisions made by the national executive branch have come as an unpleasant surprise to the country, because of the reckless way in which they were handled, especially during 1987 and 1988.

"Establishing controls over preferential foreign exchange fosters conspiracies against the country's interests, in which birds of prey inside and outside public administration feed on these scarce and valuable resources.

"Such traffickers and plunderers of the public patrimony should be condemned and repudiated by the entire nation, and we request that liability be established in this regard, and that those found guilty be punished with the full force of the law.

"It is relatively easy to make an investigation of the approvals granted outside the assigned quotas based on traditional consumption.

"This cannot occur without punishment. There can be no repetition of the case of the public employees who put the country in debt by acting irresponsibly, beyond their legal authority, compromising the nation, without any corresponding penalties imposed to date.

"A warning must be given on the requirement that any investigative procedure must not delay nor halt imports.

"The country deserves concrete signs that a battle will be waged against corruption, and that there will be a monitoring of the life style and living standard of public servants generally, and specifically, of those directly or indirectly involved in granting foreign exchange or in other important public functions.

It has become quite clear that, in an area which is as vital to economic performance as this, the government has not been effective in controlling the mechanisms for handling foreign exchange which has caused the country irreparable harm.

"We in FEDECAMARAS have constantly warned about the need to limit the granting of foreign exchange, confining it to consumption priorities and to export, when confronted with a state of dangerous reduction in international reserves. This has been recorded in documents, statements, and visits to the Congress Auditing Commission and the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic.

"We proposed that budget lists for 1988 be published, at our expense, so as to make the process clearer. This was not done except for the foreign exchange budget for the first quarter of 1989, when the previous government was leaving.

"6. In connection with the necessary imports made during 1988 and for 1989, we should stress that all those individuals or business firms that opened letters of credit or direct credits with suppliers are supported on very solid legal grounds. This also applies to those taking out insurance with the Central Bank of Venezuela for the purpose of ensuring an exchange rate for the payment of foreign debt commitments. These rights are inalienable, and should be exercised on all legal levels. To disregard

them would have serious implications for the confidence in the force of the rule of law, and in the maintenance of the ground rules. At the same time, there would be uneasiness, discouragement, and frustration when faced with the inconsistency of legal measures, causing the closing of business firms and, consequently, unemployment, shortages, and a reduction in our export capacity as a country. This would unquestionbaly jeopardize the adjustment program very seriously.

"7. Future fiscal balances must be achieved through reducing superfluous, unnecessary spending, a redefining the dimensions of the state, and an increasing income through channels other than devaluations; and all without entailing the adoption of irrational tax policies that would discourage and paralyze the productive system and prevent the attraction of foreign investment, keeping our country at a disadvantage compared with other countries that have tax scales more attractive to investors. Similarly, it is necessary to establish the bases and define the rules for achieving permanent balance in external accounts, through more suitable terms for payment of the debt, logical substitutions of imports, and an increase in foreign exchange income based on exports and tourism.

"To this end, it is very important to ensure the supply of raw material coming from the state's basic industries, giving priority to the national processing industry, all things being equal. In this way we would economize on foreign exchange, reduce imports, and export finished goods, which would contribute to a greater generation of foreign exchange per unit of raw material produced.

"8. As for the basic markest basket of products with controlled prices, we take the liberty of pointing out the infeasibility of making social policy based on price policy.

"This has proven infeasible and discourages production. We must not overlook the fact that the products which continue to be subsidized will foster growing demand on the part of foreign consumers, generating shortages and border control problems.

"The most feasible policy in this area would be to create as many stimuli and incentives as possible for such products, so that there would be great interest in manufacturing them, thus ensuring an abundant supply, which is really the way to benefit all consumers.

"9. We are concerned about the lack of a decision on the program for social assistance to families earning low income because we consider it just and essential for the acceptance and success of the adjustment program. We confirm our willingness to cooperate and collaborate insofar as we are able in the establishment and operation of this vital program.

"10. We wish to underscore the fact that the adjustment measures, including the establishment of a new exchange parity, and an increase in duties and tariffs, taxes, and fuel prices, represent a gigantic transfer of funds from the citizens to the public sector; this will distort even further the already disproportionate ratio between the funds controlled by the state and those controlled by the civilian society.

"11. We demand that, concurrently with the establishment of the measures, policies be defined and announced indicating the course to be pursued for the country's future development, so that the private sector may begin organizing itself on this basis.

"12. We reiterate our request that the restriction imposed on Article 96 of the National Constitution, guaranteeing the citizens' economic rights, be eliminated as promptly as possible, and also that autonomy of action be assured for the board of directors of the Central Bank of Venezuela, which is currently subjected to interference by a majority of public sector board members."

* Economists' Views

33480142 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish
26 Feb 89 p 2-1

[Text] Although the package of economic measures announced by the government is inspired by good intentions, it also contains inconsistencies and contradictions that will make it difficult to achieve balance in the external and internal sectors and, essentially, in the social sector, as well as in supply and demand, savings, and investment.

This is one of the conclusions reached by the special team appointed by the head of the National Academy of Economic Sciences, Cesar Ballestrini, to prepare a report on the government's economic measures, which will be considered tomorrow by the academy, so as to be subsequently sent to the president of the republic, Carlos Andres Perez.

The special commission assigned to prepare the report includes Carlos Rafael Silva, D.F. Maza Zavala, Pedro Palma, Armando Alarcon, Luis Enrique Oberto, Chi-Yi Chen, Pola Ortiz, Asdrubal Baptista, and Rafael Crazut.

From the analysis made, one concludes that no clear-cut link or relation is observed in the program between the long, short, and medium terms, or between the cyclical and the structural areas, in other words, in the way in which the economy will be reactivated after sufffering from a recession.

The report maintains that domestic demand must necessarily shrink, because of the anticipated rise in the inflation rate, and also in the cumulative inflation, as opposed to the far less than proportionate increase expected in wages.

Moreover, it is obvious that, as the inflationary process heightens, our external competitive capacity will decline, unless further devaluations occur; but this in turn might bring higher inflation. Hence, one could not expect an increase in exports to be a solution for a shrinking domestic market.

The situation is not clearly discerned, and points, rather, toward a recession. The measures do not seem consistent over the long term. The bulk of the population is tending to become poorer, and this sector is the one supporting the massive demand for goods and services. Inflation, which is becoming more accentuated, will erode not only internal demand, but also external competitive power.

Therefore, it is thought that, in view of this hypothetical but logical situation, it will be necessary to resort to state intervention and to new packages of measures with the resulting sacrifice for the large majorities. This rather unoptimistic assessment is based on the following facts:

a. The additional funds or fresh money expected to possibly enter the country will not be allocated to promote production, but rather to deal with circumstantial contingencies.

b. The single, flexible rate of exchange will tend to increase the cost, in bolivares, of machinery, equipment, and basic components for production.

c. The sales tax will constitute an additional element restricting demand, depending on the orientation that is applied to it.

d. The extraordinary transfer of funds from the private to the public sector will have no purpose other than to cover the service on the debt over the short and medium term.

On the other hand, the complementary social policies are heading in the right direction, but are incomplete, considering the magnitude of the problem, as one infers from the fact that subsidies for food products are being reduced, and the wage increase for the private sector relies only on an agreement with entrepreneurial agencies that have no coercive power to bind their associates, and puts too much trust in collective bargaining, when it is well known that only a small percentage of workers benefit from this type of bargaining. This situation would create an atmosphere conducive to greater social maladjustments.

Although Venezuela is legitimately entitled to have recourse to the International Monetary Fund to procure the assistance that would enable it to cope with the current imbalances in its external payments, certain elements must be borne in mind. The Monetary Fund is not a development agency, but rather an institution created to solve temporary balance of payments problems, which has its own philosophy and its individual criteria on how to deal with those maladjustments.

Thus far, the meager success that this institution has had in achieving a moderate balance in the economy of undeveloped countries that have had recourse to its aid is well known.

This is explained by the fact that the credit assistance granted is allocated to ensure the continuity of international payments, to stimulate world trade and, to a certain extent, to protect the interests of the international financial community.

Moreover, in many instances the diagnoses of the economies of debtor countries are general in nature, based on more or less uniform systems, and have the shortcoming of being conceived to cope with cyclical situations, whereas the problems confronting the majority of Third World countries are of a deep-seated structural nature.

In addition, the free fluctuation of prices of production factors is favored, but a freeze is advocated for wages and salaries which constitute production factors the prices of which must also fluctuate freely.

In advocating the aforementioned freezes, the burden of the adjustment falls on those earning fixed income, especially the middle and working class, while the benefits are reaped by the entrepreneurial sector, which retains the freedom to raise prices. As a result of such measures sponsored by the IMF, the social maladjustments are usually greater.

Furthermore, the IMF would appear to be disregarding the fundamental banking principle that, in order to be able to pay, one must become economically strong. On many occasions the IMF appears to be more interested in receiving immediate payment on loans, and not in the economic recovery of the borrowers.

Nevertheless, one notes that the orthodox rules for the adjustment mechanisms advocated by the IMF appear to have been liberalized in the case of Venezuela.

This is so because the package of measures calls for wage hikes and the maintenance of certain subsidies.

However, this is insufficient and, on the contrary, the greatest sacrifice is required of the middle and working classes.

Burdens Are Not Distributed Equitably

One infers from the analysis made by the special commission from the Academy of Economic Sciences that the adjustment of the economy will have to be achieved through higher taxes and devaluations, and recovery, with an increase in public investment, most particularly through action aimed at creating a market economy, for which the state would give up many of its traditional regulatory functions.

The major features of this policy are a free, fluctuating exchange rate, decontrol of interest rates, and decontrol of prices.

The adjustment process will require excessive sacrifice which, regardless of how much they attempt to avoid it, will unquestionably fall upon the lower income classes, particularly the middle class, which does not receive any type of compensation in the package of measures. Business owners and those earning variable income will benefit from the decontrol of prices, and the marginal classes will benefit from food subsidies; but nothing has been specified for the middle class.

Although the decontrol of the market forces is considered to be a desirable goal, questions are posed regarding the harm that such decontrol could entail over the short term on a limited internal market in which monopolistic situations prevail.

It is also observed that, once an inflationary process is triggered, it becomes impossible to control without imposing further restrictions, which usually affect all sectors, but which have a more serious effect on the workers, because wage freezes have historically proven to be the fundamental bases for those controls.

What To Do?

In view of the situation, alternatives for action must be studied, as well as the intensification of certain measures and a reduced intensity for others.

One of the first things that becomes evident in the recommendations made by the team that prepared the study is their gradualness. It is thought that the measures should be adopted gradually, because it would be rash to subject the population to a great sacrifice in order to carry out an economic plan that has no signs of suitable consistency; a plan in which, although it may be theoretically unobjectionable, it is unknown to what extent in can be geared to national realities.

For example, this recommendation is applicable to the proposal for exchange unification, toward which progress must be made cautiously.

Nevertheless, that policy should be implemented only when there are solid resources with which to maintain the exchange rate adopted, through the BCV's [Central Bank of Venezuela] intervention in the market. The goal can be none other than the attainment of a balanced exchange rate, wherein account is taken of the need for internal supplies and external competitiveness.

It is also noted that the goal of interest decontrol should essentially be a stimulus for savings. The maintenance of this measure would not be warranted if only active and not passive interest were increased, or if such marked differences between the two types continued to prevail. Experience has shown that banks quickly increase active interest, and not always passive interest.

Furthermore, we must bear in mind the fact that the higher interest rates adopted will be a result of inflation, and will become an additional cause of it, owing to the higher financing costs that will necessarily be incurred.

Moreover, an increase in gasoline prices is recommended to prevent a marked growth in consumption of that fuel. A pronounced increase would constitute an additional component of inflation.

The revision of rates in the public sector should be undertaken simultaneously with an improvement in productivity, a debureaucratization of public enterprises, and an improvement in services that would be capable of offsetting the higher payments made by the public.

The privatization of state enterprises that are not of the industrial or basic service type is feasible, as a means of easing the burden that is usually imposed on the treasury by the losses of such enterprises, and also as a means of stimulating private enterprise.

In the fiscal area, improvisation and regressiveness must be avoided in the tax system. Greater social justice must be established. Business owners and earners of variable income have seen their income increase considerably in times of prosperity; and it would be a glaring injustice if the burden of adjustment were not to fall on the more powerful sectors, but rather on wage earners.

Furthermore, an intensive battle is considered essential against the corruption that has prevailed in certain areas of the public and private sectors; this has caused a considerable amassment of wealth on the part of certain minorities, through financial manipulation affecting the large majorities.

For example, last year controlled foreign exchange was granted for imports in sums almost as large as during the years of the highest oil prices. However, consumers were charged prices calculated in dollars at the free exchange rate, and a shortage occurred that had no explanation. Hence, social justice and an intensive battle against corruption, speculation, and excessive greed for profit are essential.

Although price decontrol is necessary, it is recommended that very strict vigilance be maintained to prevent abuses and to intervene whenever necessary.

Included in this context is the recommendation made for a forceful battle against inflation, because of its distorting effects in the areas of production, wages, and income distribution.

It is noted that the package per se has highly inflationary features based on the devaluation, the increased cost of gasoline, and the revision of rates; it is essential that further elements not be added to these.

With regard to the foreign debt, it is recommended that the one contracted be directed toward investments which are genuinely productive, that will generate the means for the payment thereof within a reasonable period.

Meanwhile, the substitution of imports and promotion of exports constitute inestimable sources of savings and generation of foreign exchange, creation of jobs, and incentives for economic activity. Policies aimed at fostering such activities deserve the most extensive support, and should be carried out.

Suriname

UNHCR Bureau Planned for Fr. Guiana, Suriname

FL3003180489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] A delegation from the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees has recently paid orientation visits to Suriname and French Guiana. The visits are in connection with the repatriation of Surnamese refugees in French Guiana.

While in Suriname, the delegation visited the (Warensa) in East Suriname. In French Guiana, the delegation visited the refugee camps in that country.

The delegation has prepared a report which deals with the repatriation of the refugees. It was also made known that a UN High Commission for Refugees will open a bureau in French Guiana to coordinate a repatriation of the Surinamese refugees from French Guiana.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees will also open a permanent mission in Suriname to coordinate a resettlement of the refugees when they arrive in this country.

Netherlands 'Hampers' Scholarship Fee Payment

FL2903200789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Mar 89

[Text] Holland is hampering the payment of scholarship fees for Surinamese students in Holland despite agreements with the Suriname Government. Holland wants to have confidential information on the students before they pay the fees. Suriname does not agree with this.

The Suriname and Dutch Governments have recently reached agreements regarding an emergency measure which must prevent the Surinamese students from being hampered in their studies. The measure calls for the payment of 2 million guilders by the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation to the students so they can round out their studies.

The Ministry of Education is surprised at the attitude of Holland.

Health Minister Attends Environmental Conference

FL3003195689 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Text] Public Health Minister Henk Alimohamed is representing Suriname at the Latin American conference on environment. The conference started last Monday in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia.

In earlier conferences on this question, Suriname has supported the regional rights to self-determination [word indistinct] and protection of its environment.

The conference will end next week. Minister Alimohamed will return home in the first week of April.

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